

Iraq reports new attacks

BAHRAIN (AP) — Iraqi warplanes on Saturday struck Iran's Kharg Island oil terminal, a military camp, in addition to 84 bombing sorties against gun positions and troop emplacements, a military spokesman announced. Kharg was hit at 1:40 p.m. when the targets were set ablaze, he said. The spokesman in a statement broadcast by Baghdad Radio: "The second raid at 2:15 p.m. annihilated the scattered enemy and destroyed their equipment and military installations at (the northern border region of) Baneh," he said. The spokesman added that "during the day, our jet fighters raided enemy positions" in three regions along the 1,800-kilometre war front. "In a total of 84 combat missions, our military aircraft inflicted enormous losses on the enemy, both in lives, vehicles and equipment," he added.

No side can win Gulf war, Soviet aide says, page 2

Jordan Times

An independent Arab political daily published by the Jordanian Press Syndicate Foundation
جوردان تايمز يومية سياسية مستقلة عن المؤسسة الصحفية الأردنية - الراي

Assad confers with Franjeh

DAMASCUS (R) — Syrian leader Hafez Al Assad on Saturday received former Lebanese President Suleiman Franjeh, a Syrian spokesman said. Mr. Franjeh is a firm Syrian ally, but opposes parts of the recent Lebanese militia pact which propose reducing the powers of the Christian-held presidency, and ending the power-sharing system favouring Lebanon's Christian minority. Syrian Vice-President Abdul Halim Khaddam meanwhile met militia officials, whom he was expected to brief on Mr. Assad's two-days of talks with Lebanese President Amin Gemayel. In Beirut, Mr. Gemayel, who has yet to endorse the militia pact, discussed his trip to Damascus with former President Camille Chamoun, another critic of the agreement. Mr. Chamoun told reporters Mr. Gemayel would return to Syria at the end of next week "to present new ideas, if there are any."

Falangists seize East Beirut magazine, page 2

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Cement company names new chief

AMMAN (J.T.) — The Jordan Cement Factories Company (JCFC) has appointed Mr. Bashir Riad Al Mifleh as chairman of its board of directors and Khalid Al Thaher as his deputy and company general manager. The measure takes effect immediately, according to a decision taken by a statement issued on Saturday by the JCFC board. The JCFC board groups representatives of the Arab Bank, the Housing Bank, the Pension Fund and the Social Security Corporation in addition to Mr. Bandar Al Tabbaa, Mr. Sulaiman Al Deir, Mr. Ziyad Inani, Mr. Kamal Jreissat and Mr. Yusef Al Bazi.

Political wounded in Beirut attack

BEIRUT (R) — A pro-Syrian politician was wounded in an ambush in west Beirut on Saturday, sparking gunbattles in the mostly Muslim sector of the capital, political sources said. Beirut Radio said a socialist of Lebanon's Syrian Nationalist Social Party (SNSP) and another man were killed when their car was ambushed. But sources at the SNSP, which champions the integration of Lebanon into a "greater Syria," said they had only been wounded. They refused to identify the two men. Automatic rifle and rocket-propelled grenade fire was heard later in clashes the radio said were triggered by the ambush, near the American University of Beirut.

Gorbachev to visit India this year

NEW DELHI (R) — Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev is expected to pay his first visit to India this year, the Times of India reported on Saturday. The newspaper said Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi, who visited Moscow last October, was looking forward to the meeting. It gave no date.

Belfast protesters attack police

BELFAST (R) — Screaming Protesters' demonstrators attacked police with bricks, bottles and stones on Saturday outside the heavily-guarded headquarters of a controversial Anglo-Irish secretariat set up by London and Dublin last year. Police said 20 officers and a number of civilians were injured in the protest against an accord giving the mainly Catholic Irish Republic a consultative role in the future of Protestant-dominated Northern Ireland, a British province.

Israeli official says warplane will be ready by September

TEL AVIV (AP) — The head of the Israeli aircraft industries said Saturday that the initial prototype of the first Israeli-produced fighter-bomber will be in the air by September 1986. Speaking on Israeli Radio, David Ivi, a former air force chief, said production of the plane was proceeding according to schedule. "I think the main constraint is budgetary; there are no technological or capability constraints," Ivi said.

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Arabs warn U.S. and Israel against attacking Libya

Soviets pledge full support for Libyans

Combined agency dispatches

THE ARAB LEAGUE and Egypt have warned the United States and Israel against attacking Libya for last week's attacks at Rome and Vienna airports.

The Arab League said Israeli and U.S. charges that Libya was behind the attacks served to heighten tension in the Middle East and the Mediterranean. Arab commentators from Morocco to Kuwait issued similar warnings after reports that the U.S. and Israel were considering punitive action against Libya. In Kuwait, acting Prime Minister Sheikh Sabah Al Ahmad Al Sabah said after meeting U.S. Ambassador Antony Quainton: "We stressed to him that we are against terror (and) against threats to any Arab state."

An official Soviet committee on Saturday expressed Kremlin support for Libya and criticised the United States and Israel for "kindling a hostile campaign against Libya."

The Soviet Afro-Asian Solidarity Committee, a state-run group whose statements could not be issued or published without official endorsement, said recent Israeli and U.S. actions towards Libya "are the cause of serious concern of the Soviet public," the official news agency TASS said. But the statement did not say

what action the Soviets planned if the United States or Israel takes military action against Libya.

The statement said "Washington and Tel Aviv, kindling a hostile campaign against Libya, are preparing ground for new aggressive anti-Arab actions."

It charged that both the Israelis and the Americans were planning military strikes against Libya and added:

"Expressing their solidarity with the people of the Libyan Jamahiriya, who are courageously upholding their national sovereignty, the Soviet people firmly demand an end to the campaign of provocations and threats against that Arab country and attempts of interference into its internal affairs."

Syria has also vowed to support Libya in the case of an Israeli or U.S. strike. The Syrian News Agency SANA quoted an authoritative government source as saying: "Syria will extend support for Libya in every way possible, including political and military support, in the face of any aggression."

The organisation said that the

SANA accused the United States of supporting Israeli plans for "aggression (against Libya) long before the (Rome and Vienna) attacks took place."

"The United States wants Israel to use the attacks as a pretext for an aggression to cover up the defeats of U.S. policies in the region," SANA quoted its source as saying.

In a statement issued in Tunis, the Arab League said that it "reproved all intimidation against any Arab state and stood firmly at the side of all Arab states threatened by aggression."

The League reiterated its condemnation of "all acts of terrorism and barbarism," but said that statements by Israel and the United States accusing Libya would only "increase the tension in the Middle East and in the Mediterranean region."

It said threats and movements of troops could have "disastrous consequences" in the area. The Arab League said the "wave of violence will not be held back with condemnation alone" and that "reprisals will only bring a radical solution."

The statement said it was regrettable that the United States "refuses to make the link between acts of violence that some are led to commit and the state terrorism practised by Israel against the Palestinian people."

The organisation said that the

(Continued on page 3)

Italy debates alleged Libyan role in attack

ROME (Agencies) — Amid signs of growing tension in the Mediterranean area, Italian ministers met on Saturday to try to determine whether Libya had a role in last week's bloody attacks at Rome and Vienna airports.

Pressure to try to establish whether the Libyans supported the raids last month, in which 19 people, including five Americans, were killed has increased after reports that the United States is considering economic and military action against Libya.

Reagan administration officials said earlier that the White House was studying possible economic and military moves, including air strikes, in retaliation for what they called Libyan support of terrorism.

Although the Italian cabinet expressed its opposition on Friday to any military action in the Mediterranean, Prime Minister Bettino Craxi said that Italy would be obliged to reconsider its relations with Tripoli should Libya prove to have been actively involved in the attacks.

Libya has denied any part in the raids, which it says are being used by the United States and Israel as a pretext for aggression.

Saturday's meeting of Italian ministers, including Mr. Craxi, Defence Minister Giovanni Spadolini and Foreign Affairs Minister Giulio Andreotti, follows a statement on Friday by the West German government that there is growing evidence that Libya supported the guerrilla attacks.

Several Italian newspapers have reported that the magistrate investigating the Rome attack was considering issuing an arrest warrant for Abu Nidal, the radical Palestinian guerrilla suspected of masterminding the attacks.

Mr. Arafat's visit follows improved relations between Syria and Jordan.

Mr. Arafat's political advisor, Hani Al Hassan, told Reuters two days ago the PLO was prepared to restore normal relations with Damascus and was studying a Syrian offer of rapprochement.

Syria expelled Mr. Arafat in 1983 and has since supported Palestinian groups opposed to his policies.

Mr. Arafat said in a television interview on Friday that the PLO warned European governments well before the Rome and Vienna airport massacres that terrorists were preparing "many attacks against various objects."

Mr. Arafat, interviewed by the Italian-language Swiss TV, said specifically that the PLO warned the governments of Italy, Austria and Switzerland "about a month ago" of these plans.

"These terrorist attacks against our friends in Europe are not only aimed against their citizens but also against the Arab-European relations," he said in the brief interview, according to the simultaneous Italian translation from the English original.

The PLO has denied carrying out the two attacks. A top Palestinian source in Cairo was quoted on Wednesday as saying that Israel had planned to attack PLO bases in North Yemen and Sudan in November.



KING VISITS GHQ: His Majesty King Hussein, the Supreme Commander of the Armed Forces, confers with Armed Forces Commander-in-Chief General Sharif Zaid during a visit he paid to the General Headquarters of the Armed Forces on Saturday (Petra photo)

in-Chief General Sharif Zaid during a visit he paid to the General Headquarters of the Armed Forces on Saturday (Petra photo)

Israeli troops, SLA men storm S. Lebanese villages

Israel moves armour into 'security zone'

BEIRUT (Agencies) — Israeli troops were reported on Saturday to have moved 30 tanks into their self-proclaimed "security zone" in South Lebanon as their South Lebanon Army (SLA) militia allies came under fresh attacks. Israeli troops and SLA men also stormed three villages outside the "security zone."

The sources, who spoke to the AP on condition they were not named, said the armour was concentrated in the northernmost salient of the Israeli-occupied zone that juts into the eastern Bekaa Valley.

The sources said one militiaman of the Israeli-backed SLA was killed and four wounded when Lebanese fighters ambushed them near Dellafa in the western Bekaa Valley on Saturday.

The SLA retaliated by storming Dellafa and several neighbouring villages and seized at least 10 men suspected of aiding the fighters of Lebanon's National Resistance Front, the sources reported.

The border war has heated up over the last week as resistance

fighters intensified hit-and-run attacks on the Israeli-occupied zone.

Several other SLA militiamen were reported killed or wounded by mines near Qilaya village, eight kilometres southeast of the SLA-held town of Jezzine.

Israeli troops and SLA men in armoured vehicles also fired rocket-propelled grenades as they combed the villages of Yater, Kafra and Haddatha on the edge of Israel's self-styled "security zone," the sources told Reuters.

Israeli jets later flew over South Lebanon, the agency quoted witnesses as saying.

The SLA, backed by an estimated 1,000 Israelis, patrols the "security zone" set up when Israel withdrew its regular army from Lebanon last June.

After a rocket hit the northern Israeli settlement of Kiryat Shmuna on Thursday, Israel said it would retaliate for attacks launched from Lebanese soil.

Heavy fighting erupted overnight between the SLA and Lebanese fighters on battle lines at

Kfar Falous village 10 kilometres from Sidon.

SLA gunners fired into the eastern outskirts of the city, but no casualties were reported.

Fighting around Kfar Falous intensified on new year's eve and SLA shelling killed three people in Sidon on Thursday.

Justice Minister Nabih Berri said the Israeli actions in the south were aimed at undermining a peace agreement signed last week by Lebanon's three main militias. "Israel is trying to block the agreement and engineer a new phase of the Lebanese crisis through its new approach in South Lebanon," he said.

Israel was raising "the pretext of rockets being fired into Galilee, while forgetting the artillery and tank shells that crash daily into the liberated areas," Mr. Berri said.

Beirut Radio said Prime Minister Rashid Karami had told Lebanon's representative at the United Nations to ask for a Security Council meeting to consider a formal complaint over Israeli actions in the south.

Arafat in Baghdad, meets Aziz

BAGHDAD (Agencies) — Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) Chairman Yasser Arafat arrived in Baghdad Friday night and met Iraqi Foreign Minister Tariq Aziz, the Iraqi News Agency (INA) reported.

It said the two men discussed relations between Iraq and the PLO and latest developments of the Palestinian issue. It did not elaborate.

Mr. Arafat's visit follows improved relations between Syria and Jordan.

Mr. Arafat's political advisor, Hani Al Hassan, told Reuters two days ago the PLO was prepared to restore normal relations with Damascus and was studying a Syrian offer of rapprochement.

Syria expelled Mr. Arafat in 1983 and has since supported Palestinian groups opposed to his policies.

Mr. Arafat said in a television interview on Friday that the PLO warned European governments well before the Rome and Vienna airport massacres that terrorists were preparing "many attacks against various objects."

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"These terrorist attacks against our friends in Europe are not only aimed against their citizens but also against the Arab-European relations," he said in the brief interview, according to the simultaneous Italian translation from the English original.

The PLO has denied carrying out the two attacks. A top Palestinian source in Cairo was quoted on Wednesday as saying that Israel had planned to attack PLO bases in North Yemen and Sudan in November.

Jordan joins accord against hostage-taking

AMMAN (J.T.) — Jordan has decided to join other world nations in signing an international accord against hostage-taking, crimes against diplomats and offences against civil aviation.

The decision to sign the accord was taken on Saturday at a cabinet meeting chaired by Prime Minister Zaid Al Rifai. The cabinet authorised Foreign Minister Taher Al Masri to sign the accord.

Jordan has contributed to formulating previous accords against terrorism and hostage-taking between 1976 and 1979, since Jordan has direct interest in such agreements and in their implementation, a cabinet statement said.

Previous accords were signed by 40 nations in 1984, and 25 others submitted documents endorsing the accords, the statement added.

The United Nations Security Council has unanimously condemned all acts of hostage-taking and abductions and called for the safe release of all hostages. The resolution, passed on Dec. 18, also called for the immediate safe release of hostages everywhere. It

affirmed the obligation of all states in whose territory hostages are held to take all appropriate measures to secure their release and to prevent any future abductions.

The resolution, which followed a similar one adopted by the United Nations General Assembly on Dec. 11, appealed to all states to consider signing existing international accords in this respect.

At its session on Saturday, the cabinet also endorsed a Jordanian-Iraqi cooperation programme which was signed in Amman last month. The cabinet approved the minutes of Jordanian-Syrian meetings which were held in Damascus in November and decided on the formation of Jordanian sub-committees to study ways of economic cooperation between Jordan and Syria.

The cabinet also endorsed a new amendment to the imports regulations "in accordance with the requirement of the new 1986 national budget to conform to the new amendments to the new customs regulations."

CBJ amends cash margin regulations for local banks

AMMAN (Petra) — The Central Bank of Jordan (CBJ) has introduced changes in the rate of cash margin required by commercial banks and financial institutions upon opening letters of credit, sight drafts and bank-accepted time drafts, as originally included in the 66th article of the CBJ's regulations.

A statement issued by CBJ Governor Hussein Al Qasem said that commercial banks can fix their own margin rates when opening letters of credit for the importation of primary materials used in local industries, food processing and manufacturing, basic commodities and other products used by contractors employed to carry out work for ministries and gov-

ernment departments, provided they do not fall below the 10 per cent level, down from 25 per cent as stated in the original regulations.

Cash margin will be 20 per cent, up from 15 per cent on letters of credit for the importation of building materials, and will be 30 per cent up from 25 per cent on letters of credit on other imports, Mr. Qasem said. He said these amendments, which will go into effect immediately, are in line with recent cabinet decisions designed to support national industry, and which provided for increasing customs duty on a number of imported commodities and reducing them on others.

Arab League discusses Spanish, African moves

TUNIS (Agencies) — The Arab League Council on Saturday was discussing Spain's decision to establish diplomatic relations with Israel and was considering issuing a call on Spain to reconsider its decision and remain committed to supporting Arab rights in Palestine and denouncing Israel's practices in the occupied territories and its settlement policy.

Spain announced on New Year's Day that it plans to establish diplomatic relations with Israel later this year.

The council, which met at foreign ministers' level in response to a call by Libya and Syria to discuss the issue of moves by some African and other states to restore diplomatic relations with Israel, was also reviewing Afro-Arab relations in the light of new developments. Libya and Syria are attending the meeting.

Israel said last month that Ivory Coast was planning to restore diplomatic relations with the Jewish state.

Arab League Secretary-General Chadi Kibbi, who opened the meeting, stressed the need for concerted Arab moves to counter and foil intensified Israeli moves to increasing its presence and influence in Africa and saw anti-Arab sentiments in African states.

Mr. Kibbi also condemned the apartheid policy of South Africa and said South African-Israeli collaboration is blocking liberation movements.

The same sentiment was voiced by Kuwait on Saturday when it called on African states to adopt a consistent approach to dealings with Israel and South Africa, which it said had similar racist policies.

Abdul Aziz Hussein, an adviser to the Emir of Kuwait, Sheikh Jaber Al Ahmad Al Sabah, said on leaving for the special meeting in Tunis that steps would be taken to convince African states to review ties with Israel.

The Kuwait News Agency quoted Mr. Hussein as saying: "In both entities there is a racist state. We have to be consistent with ourselves in dealing with the two racist states."

The Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) also requested the special meeting to discuss Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak's call for it to accept U.N. resolutions recognising Israel's right to exist in return for a withdrawal from occupied Arab lands.

Mr. Hussein, who will also head Kuwait's delegation to a meeting of Islamic foreign ministers in Fez, Morocco, next Monday said items on the agenda included the Iran-Iraq war, the Palestinian cause, Israeli expansionism and the situation in Afghanistan.

The Abu Dhabi newspaper Al Itihad reported on Saturday that Libya plans to seek support at next Monday's meeting of the foreign ministers of the 45-nation Organisation of Islamic Conference (OIC).

Some members of the conference also participate in the 22-member Arab League.

Libya has requested that the issue of U.S. threats against it be added to the agenda of Monday's ministerial meeting, "and that a joint Islamic stand be adopted," Al Itihad said.

The Arab League, in a statement issued in Tunis, has expressed its support for Libya in the face of threats by the United States.

It said that the League "rejected all intimidation against any Arab state and stood firmly at the side of all Arab states threatened by aggression."

An Iranian delegation arrived in Rabat on Friday for the Islamic foreign ministers meeting.

The Moroccan news agency MAP said the delegation was led by Mohammed Ali Deskhiri, vice-president of the Islamic Information Organisation.

USEFUL TELEPHONE NOS.

EMERGENCIES

Amman governorate 891228
 Amman civil defence 198, 199
 Civil Defence Irbid 271293, 273131
 Civil Defence Qawsweish 770733
 Ambulance 103, 775111
 Amman downtown fire brigade 198
 First aid 630341
 Blood bank 778303
 Civil Defence rescue 661111
 Fire headquarters 623090-3
 Traffic rescue 192, 621111, 637777
 Police headquarters 630141
 Traffic police 896390-1
 Electric Power Co. 636818/4, 624881
 Municipal water complaints 7711235
 Queen Alia Int. Airport (08) 553390-60

NIGHT DUTY

AMMAN:
 Dr. Ahmad Othman 786384
 Dr. Walid Yacoub 784811
 Firas pharmacy 669192
 Salam pharmacy 636783
 Raghdia pharmacy 676740
 Rawahi pharmacy 644434
 Khalid pharmacy 624217
 Chantal pharmacy 656601

TAXIS:
 Venecia taxi 644585
 Al Abram taxi 663911
 Melyah taxi 644574
 Asman taxi 644893
 Adnan taxi 668922
 Al Nohar taxi 665619
 Shmeisani taxi 665294

IRBID:
 Dr. Abdul Majeed Sababheen (-)
 Wardsah pharmacy 243133
 Sa' down pharmacy 242130

ZARQA:
 Dr. Miss Odeh 882049
 Anas pharmacy 968928

GENERAL

Jordan Television 773111/19
 Radio Jordan 774111/19
 Ministry of Tourism 642311
 Hotel complaints 666119
 Price complaints 661176
 Telephone Information 12
 Border and Middle East calls 10
 Overseas calls 17
 Repair service 11

MARKET PRICES

(Fixed prices for imported products)
Upper/lower price in \$/p per kg.

| | | | |
|----------------|----------|------------------------|---------|
| Apple | 250/220 | Garlic (with leaves) | 320/280 |
| Beet | 140/130 | Onion (without leaves) | 180/160 |
| Chestnut | 300/1600 | Onion (dry) | 180/140 |
| Coconut (each) | 700/450 | Potatoes | 140/100 |
| | | Sage (green) | 350/280 |

IIAS chief praises Jordan as perfect site for September forum

By Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — Jordan possesses all the elements to be the venue of a forthcoming international congress of administrative science, organised by the Brussels-based International Institute of Administrative Sciences (IIAS) and due to be held here in September under Royal patronage, according to IIAS President Joseph Qaisar.

Speaking at a press conference on Saturday, the third day of his visit to Jordan, Dr. Qaisar said: "We are on the right spot to hold the 20th international congress in Jordan, as the Kingdom enjoys a highly advanced administrative sector, and a quite dependent infrastructure."

The theme of the international assembly will be "Administrative Reform in light of socio-economic change". The congress, scheduled for 1986, will attract some 60 countries and multinational institutions will take part in the congress.

Dr. Qaisar said that preparations to convene the congress were nearly ready and full, detailed plans on the agenda have been drawn up.

The Arab Organisation of Administrative Sciences (AOAS), which was entrusted with laying down the ground work for the congress, has formed different committees, each of which is charged with a certain aspect of the congress.

The committees looked into choosing a location for the congress in addition to scientific, administrative and training programmes for the congress. Other affiliated subcommittees were formed in the participating countries to lay down research and working plans to be discussed during the conference.

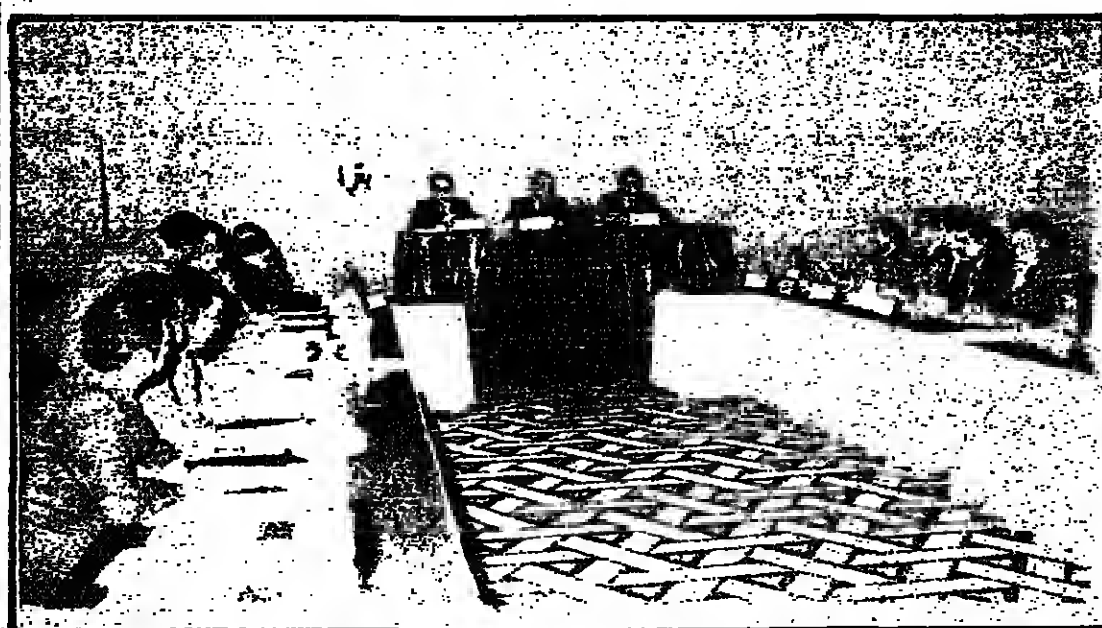
Commenting on the AOAS role in preparing for the event, AOAS President Nasser Sayegh told reporters that an Arab body affiliated with the Arab League Council has sought to hold the congress in Amman and gained Royal patronage.

This is the third such congress to be held outside Europe and the first in the Arab World. The first two such events took place in Mexico and the Ivory Coast.

On the aims of holding the congress in Amman, Dr. Sayegh said the congress would create interaction between Arab administrative thought and the modern trends in international administrative sciences, in addition to highlighting Arab administrative heritage.

The assembly will also open channels of cooperation between development institutions in the Arab World and their counterparts in the world at large. Such a move would help creating a common Arab administrative strategy.

The congress will issue documents and research papers to be distributed to administrative-related organisations and consultants in the world at large to be used as references for future in-depth studies, Dr. Sayegh concluded.



Minister of Health Zaid Hamzeh (centre) leads a Saturday meeting in cooperation with the Council for Arab Economic Unity (CAEU) for the purpose of establishing a federation of Arab drug manufacturers. CAEU Secretary General Mahdi Al Obeidi, seated to the right of Dr. Hamzeh, is addressing the group (Petra photo)

Hamzeh opens meeting to establish Arab drug manufacturer federation

AMMAN (Petra) — Health Minister Zaid Hamzeh opened a meeting on Saturday to discuss the establishment of an Arab federation for manufacturers of drugs and medical appliances.

The meeting was organised by the Council of Arab Economic Unity (CAEU), which sponsors the federation project.

In a speech at the opening session Dr. Hamzeh underlined the importance of Arab economic cooperation and its role in supporting Arab economic health and strengthening inter-Arab ties.

The presence of an Arab pharmaceutical industry is a source of pride for all Arab citizens, Dr. Hamzeh said. He also urged Arab drug manufacturers to develop

their production so as to cope with modern technological challenges, and stressed the importance of imposing controls on the distribution of drugs and medicines.

CAEU Secretary General Mahdi Al Obeidi also addressed the opening session and emphasised the need for organising the pharmaceutical industries and improving the quality of the pharmaceutical products to meet the needs of people in the Arab World.

The proposed federation will address itself to finding markets for Arab pharmaceutical industries in an organised manner, Mr. Obeidi said.

The importance of the proposed federation stems from the fact that medicines have a direct effect on man's health, and so contribute to economic and social development in the Arab World, Mr. Obeidi added.

He also voiced appreciation to the Health Ministry for its contribution to help establish the projected federation.

During the two-day meeting some 35 participants representing Arab pharmaceutical industries and drug manufacturers will discuss a memorandum submitted by the CAEU's general secretariat calling for the establishment of the federation, steps to be taken towards achieving that goal, and a proposed statute and by-laws for the federation.

Jordan's water system to be improved

AMMAN (J.T.) — The forthcoming 1986-1990 five-year development plan includes provisions for installing water networks and replacing old ones in different parts of the country at a total cost of JD 131 million, according to a report in the local Al Dustour Arabic daily newspaper.

The plan entails supplying water to central regions in Jordan, including Amman, from Al Mukheibeh springs near Irbid, at a rate of 26 million cubic metres annually. This project involves building wastewater treatment plants

and setting up other installations, pumping stations, and water tanks at a cost of JD 44 million. The plan provides for pumping water from the main reservoirs and tanks to residential areas for domestic consumption and industrial use by building pumping stations and laying pipes at a cost of JD 32.5 million.

The plan also envisions spending JD 15 million to build water networks in the following cities: Ramtha, Mafrq, Ajloun, Anjara, Ain Jana, Kufrenjeh, Madaba, Karak, Tafleh and Ma'an.

Under the plan old water networks inside the cities will be gradually replaced at the rate of five per cent of their lengths annually in Amman, Salt, Irbid, Zarqa, Madaba, Ma'an, Mafrq, Karak, Tafleh, and in the Jordan Valley region. This will cost at least JD 22.5 million, according to Al Dustour.

Other projects included in the plan involve supplying water to various settlements at a cost of JD 13 million and improving the efficiency of other networks in different regions at a cost of JD 2.5 million.

Health Ministry enlists aid of leading medical specialists to promote clinics

AMMAN (Petra) — A number of leading Jordanian private medical specialists have agreed to cooperate with the Ministry of Health by offering medical advice in certain fields, with the purpose of promoting the work of government-controlled health centres, Health Minister Zaid Hamzeh said Saturday.

These advisors have consented to give their advice for nominal fees and will thus be offering excellent help to their colleagues employed at Al Bashir hospital in Amman, not only in medical examinations, but also in conducting

advanced surgical operations and in laying down training programmes for interns, Dr. Hamzeh said.

Initially the Health Ministry will cooperate with Dr. Gheith Shubailat, a plastic surgeon; Dr. Ashraf Al Kurdi, a neurologist; Dr. Suhail Saleh, a cardiologist; Dr. Mohammad Al Zahiri, an internist; Dr. Abdul Rahim Malhas, a surgeon; Dr. Nabil Atallah, an orthopaedist and Dr. Salah Salah, neurologist and brain surgeon.

The minister paid tribute to these specialists who, he said, are

taking an exemplary step and offering their countrymen a great service.

Dr. Hamzeh said that this measure was taken as part of the ministry's drive to improve medical services and in view of the long and vast experience these specialists have in their fields. He was commenting on a statement published earlier in the press in which he said that the Health Ministry plans to enlist the help of private Jordanian specialists to promote medical services at its hospitals and health centres in Jordan.

Lawzi leads delegation to Egypt, praises ties

AMMAN (J.T.) — Speaker of the Upper House of Parliament Ahmad Al Lawzi said here Saturday that His Majesty King Hussein's decision to restore Jordan's diplomatic relations with Egypt was in conformity with the principles of the Great Arab Revolt, and based on the concept of pan-Arab solidarity and bolstering joint Arab action.

Mr. Lawzi was making a press statement shortly before he flew to Egypt on an official visit at the head of a delegation from the Upper House of Parliament.

He said that Jordan's relations with Egypt are strong, thanks to the endeavours of King Hussein and President Hosni Mubarak. "Egypt must acquire a prominent position within the Arab community and also in any joint Arab action at all regional and international levels in all economic, scientific and military domains," Mr. Lawzi said.

During the week-long visit Mr. Lawzi is expected to meet with the speaker of the Egyptian People's Council, Dr. Rifaat Mahjoub, and other officials and parliament members.

The delegation includes Hikmat Al Masri, Walid Salah, Zouqan Hindawi, Jumaa Hammad, Nayef Al Khreisbeh, Hayel Al Surur and Hani Kheir.

The delegation were seen off by House members and Egypt's Ambassador to Jordan Eihab Wahbeh.

Army Chief of Staff Fathi Abu Taleb is also expected to arrive in Cairo Sunday on a visit to Egypt, according to the Jordanian News Agency, Petra.

The agency said that Lt.-Gen. Abu Taleb will lead a military delegation in response to an invitation by Egyptian Army Chief of Staff Ibrahim Arrabi.

Festivities planned for Arbor Day

AMMAN (J.T.) — Arbor Day will be celebrated throughout Jordan on January 15 and the main celebration will be held under Royal patronage at Al Taneih Royal Racing Club between Amman and the Queen Alia International Airport, according to an official announcement by the Department of Press and Publications.

Other Arbor Day festivities will be held in Mastaba, near Jerash, and a development site in the Zarqa River basin, according to Ministry of Agriculture Range and Afforestation Department Director Ghalib Abu Arrabi.

He said that actually the celebrations will last until the beginning of March to allow for the planting of nearly 7.5 million saplings produced by the ministry's nurseries around the country. Of these, 3.5 million will be planted by the ministry's various teams and the rest will be distributed to private organisations and schools free of charge to be planted in their grounds and areas, Mr. Arrabi added. "My department will plant fruit and forest trees over a 25,000 dunum area in the current season," he said.

Minister of Agriculture Ahmad Dakhqan will hold a meeting Saturday to discuss arrangements for the celebrations around the country. The meeting will be attended by Ministry of Agriculture Under Secretary Salem Al Lawzi and directors of agriculture departments in Jordan.

In preparation for the celebrations, Mr. Dakhqan has issued a circular urging directors of agricultural departments in all governorates to plant trees alongside main roads and the approaches to cities during this season. He also called on these departments to cooperate with municipalities in organising campaigns for planting trees on the largest possible areas of land, and to assign plots of lands for parks and public gardens. The minister said agriculture departments should cooperate with the Water Authority of Jordan (W.A.J.) in organising the watering of trees and irrigation operations in their regions, and to make ample preparations in cooperation with provincial governors.

Meanwhile, reports from different governorates indicate that preparations are well underway for celebrating Arbor Day on January 15. A meeting in Mafrq resulted in a decision to hold the main celebration in the premises of the government hospital and that boys scouts, girl guides, and representatives of various organisations and youth clubs will take part in the tree planting celebrations.

According to Mafrq Governor Fayez Al Abbadi, who presided over the meeting, the Department of Education in Mafrq will organise an awareness campaign to urge the public to plant trees and to protect forests.

In Salt, it was announced that the main tree-planting celebration will be held on January 27 during which fruit and forest trees will be planted in different regions, particularly in the main ground at Mudari. The Department of Agriculture in Balqa region has prepared 2000 dunums of land to be planted with trees. These are located at Mudari, Wadi Shueib, Rumman and Tallous.

In Karak in the south and Ajloun in the north of the country similar celebrations will be held to mark the occasion. According to the Department of Agriculture in Karak nearly 12,000 tree saplings will be planted during the celebrations.

Municipal and Rural Affairs Ministry unveils final draft 5-year budget plan

AMMAN (Petra) — The Ministry of Municipal and Rural Affairs and the Environment has prepared its five year plan, and plans to spend JD 92,482 million on different public service projects, in addition to JD 35.63 million to be spent on development schemes between 1986-1990, according to an official announcement here Saturday.

The announcement was made by Mr. Asem Ghoshe, director of services and engineering works, who heads a team that prepared the ministry's draft five year plan. Mr. Ghoshe said that JD 53.85 million will be spent on building

streets and roads, JD 18,591 on purchasing land for projects, JD 15,381 on public utilities and other buildings, JD 7,022 million on building road shoulders and pavements, JD 6,353 million on purchasing machinery and equipment, JD 5,276 million on building public gardens, JD 3,07 million on municipal building and JD 2,941 million on other unspecified projects.

The development schemes in the plan include building market places, shopping centres, handicraft districts, government building complexes and car parks, Mr. Ghoshe pointed out.

At the outset of the meeting, Minister of Municipal and Rural Affairs and the Environment Marwan Humud said that the five-year plan is essentially based on the concept of public participation in building cities and villages and the role of municipalities in promoting public services and acting as a decentralised authority for local government.

He said that local councils should make every possible effort for relying on their own revenues to finance public schemes in their respective regions. These revenues come from taxes, fees and contributions, the minister added.

RSCN works to protect nature

By Kerstin Wichmann Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — The Royal Society for the Conservation of Nature (RSCN) is an umbrella organisation dedicated to the protection of nature, natural resources, wildlife in the desert and marine life.

According to Maher Abu Jafar, the general director of the RSCN, the organisation's major task is to supply scientific support to legislative institutions.

In 1985, the RSCN was asked by the Ministry of Planning to contribute to the establishment of the environmental part of the forthcoming 1986-1990 national development plan, Mr. Abu Jafar told the Jordan Times. Since then, the RSCN has been directly involved in national conservation strategy to organise the future use of natural resources.

Finishing this study will take about three years and the RSCN has asked the International Union for the Conservation of Nature (IUCN) to contribute to the project technically and financially.

In addition to this theoretical work, the RSCN has also executive power to regulate hunting in the Kingdom. For that purpose Mr. Abu Jafar continued, Jordan was divided into six different hunting areas which are alternately open for hunting for limited periods of time during the year. In order to enforce public adherence to the restrictions, the well-equipped RSCN staff patrol the areas daily.

"During the last year we collected JD 135,000 as fines on prohibited hunting," Mr. Abu Jafar said. The RSCN is authorised by the government to arrest offenders and take them to the police.

Mr. Abu Jafar added that the Aqaba area is also under RSCN supervision. Two inspectors patrol the coast daily in order to keep it clean from pollution. Leaflets distributed to all ships at anchor prohibit the dumping of sewage and oils.

"Compared to other harbours of the world, Aqaba is a really clean one," Mr. Abu Jafar said. He said, however, that because of the non-existence of national environmental or wildlife legislation, there are "some gaps" in environmental protection. The RSCN draws its authority from Agricultural Act No. 20, concerning animal resources, but has no influence on industrial pollution, for example.

In order to protect endangered species from extinction the RSCN is busy with establishing wildlife reserves in Jordan. Mr. Abu Jafar mentioned that of the 12 proposed reserves two have been established so far. A third one, the Mujib Wildlife Reserve next to the Dead Sea, is in the process of construction.

In 1975 the Shaumari Wildlife Reserve was opened and, with the assistance of the World Wildlife Fund (WWF) and the Arabian Oryx World Herd Trustees, the Arabian Oryx was reintroduced to its natural habitat in Jordan in 1983. Today there is a total of 45 head (10 per cent of the world population of the oryx), demonstrating the success of the breeding programme. In addition, several species of gazelles, the wild ass and the ostrich are part of the breeding programme.

The second operating wildlife reserve is at the Azraq Oasis. An RSCN research paper asserts that "this unique wetland is a noted locality for migrating birds, including many of the African, Palearctic species, which pass through in spring and summer. Some

species winter at the oasis and some breed there. It was recognised in 1977 as an international station for migratory waterfowl. About 311 species of birds, over half of them migratory, have been recorded at this wetland. Furthermore it is very rich in both flora and fauna."

This oasis is currently in danger, as Mr. Abu Jafar notes: "If the Jordan Water Authority goes on pumping drinking water for the Amman area to the extent that it is now, we will lose the oasis for sure." Mr. Abu Jafar added that due to the sinking of the groundwater level migratory birds are on the decrease.

The RSCN promotes a "wise," responsible use of water, including raising the consciousness of the consumers. "Water is a rare element in Jordan and not available in unlimited amounts."

In order to create more public awareness concerning environmental problems, the RSCN established a Public Awareness and Information Division six months ago.

"We intend to start from zero," Mr. Abu Jafar said, "for that reason we are cooperating with the Ministry of Education on issuing a booklet about Jordanian wildlife and plants in schools. We hope that in 10 or 15 years the Jordanian population will be more aware of the necessity for the protection of nature."

The RSCN also ordered a mobile education unit from the WWF and plans to produce illustrative educational material like posters and charts.

A further project is the erection of an information centre at the Shaumari Wildlife Reserve.

The visitor will be able to gain information about the RSCN and the wildlife reserves while attending the centre.

NEWS IN BRIEF

New bus fares announced

AMMAN (Petra) — The bus fare for a passenger travelling between Irbid and Amman has been lowered from 800 fils to 700 fils on modern air-conditioned Pullman buses, while the ordinary bus fare remains 400 fils, according to a new tariff issued by Minister of Transport Rami Obeidi. A statement issued Saturday also said that air-conditioned Pullman buses operating along the Jerash-Amman road should charge 300 fils per trip while the fare on the ordinary buses will be 230 fils.

IDB grants loans worth JD 1,249,000

AMMAN (Petra) — The Industrial Development Bank (IDB) has granted 13 loans totalling JD 1,249,000 to local industries that are projected to create 127 new jobs and should make a contribution of JD 262,800 to national income. An IDB statement said that the new loans have raised the total number of loans granted to Jordanian industries in the past year to 129, estimated at a total of JD 7,482,000.

Poultry sector company discussed

AMMAN (Petra) — During a meeting held Saturday owners of a number of poultry farms in Jordan discussed the establishment of a general shareholding company to support the poultry sector in Jordan. The farmers also discussed the roles and goals of the proposed company, which will not affect the existing cooperative society for the production and marketing of eggs.

Iraqi exhibition to open Wednesday

AMMAN (Petra) — An Iraqi popular market will be opened here Wednesday under Royal patronage at the Professional Associations Complex on the occasion of Iraq's celebration of the 60th anniversary of the establishment of the Iraqi Army. On display at the three-day market are various products of Iraqi industries. The exhibition was organised by the Iraqi community in Amman, with the proceeds going to the families of martyrs.

Arabs warn U.S. and Israel against attacking Libya

(Continued from page 1)

best means of eliminating all manifestations of violence and terrorism was "to attack the roots of the evil" by respecting the legitimacy of all U.N. resolutions.

In Cairo, Egyptian presidential adviser Osama Al Baz said Egypt opposed "any Israeli action against Arab country." Dr. Baz was talking to reporters after meeting U.S. Assistant Secretary of State for African Affairs Chester Crocker (See page 2).

"We had no word from our American friends, from the U.S.

administration and we are sure that the people in Washington are not trigger-happy or looking for any military involvement," Dr. Baz added.

"He reiterated Cairo's condemnation of terrorism but said retaliatory action could lead to a dangerous chain of reactions. He urged the international community to act within the context of legitimacy."

Morocco's conservative daily newspaper l'Opinion said U.S. President Reagan would "fall into a trap," if he ordered military reprisals against Libya.

Kuwait's Al Rai Al Aam newspaper and Syria's semi-official Al Thawra daily said any U.S. or Israeli attack against Libya would be regarded as aggression against the whole Arab World.

The United States now has forces in the Mediterranean that could launch a strike against Libya, but military officials feel any such action would be dangerous and difficult, defence department sources quoted by the AP said.

The U.S. navy has conducted what it called a routine deployment of a battle group into the

Mediterranean, the sources said. But President Reagan has made no decision to proceed with any type of military response to the attacks in Rome and Vienna, they said.

Speaking on condition they not be identified further, the defence department sources said top officials, including Defence Secretary Caspar W. Weinberger, were asked to prepare for a possible "strategy meeting" at the White House on Saturday.

Asked about reports that options included air strikes by FA-18 jets from the aircraft carrier Coral

Sea or by U.S. air force F-111 jets based in Britain, one official said: "I would not quarrel with that."

The F-111 fighter-bombers could be refuelled in air or at a NATO base at Sigonella, Sicily.

On Friday, the U.S. carrier Coral Sea and her battle group ended a holiday port leave in Italy and steamed into the central Mediterranean in what navy officials termed a routine manoeuvre.

The U.S. defence department sources also confirmed that earlier this week that at least six EA-6B prowler radar-jamming aircraft were dispatched from their base in Washington state to the Sigonella air base in Sicily.

All in all the UDA suggests nine seats to represent the 11 refugee camps in the country.

Such a formula, the statement says, will "achieve a balance between the Jordanian national entity, which includes the two banks, and (a future) Palestinian national entity." The statement did not elaborate.

The statement carried the signatures of 30 Jordanian political personalities including former minister Jamal Al Shaer, who heads the UDA, former National Consultative Council (NCC) member Faisal Kanaana and others.

The association also suggested a number of election procedures to guarantee fair elections.

It proposed that the voting card should be issued by the Department of Civil Affairs, to set voting age at 18 and to allow illiterate voters select a member of the committee which supervises the elections to help in the balloting process.

Political activists seek changes in draft

(Continued from page 1)

Gaza Strip that should be considered in the new electoral law: — First, the population in the West Bank has gone down to three quarters of a million while the population of the East Bank — Jordanians and Palestinians including refugees — has increased to around three million.

Second, the Palestinian question has gained new Arab and international dimensions as a result of the role that the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) has come to play, the continuation of the Israeli occupation and the emergence of the issue of establishing a Palestinian entity. At the same time the constitutional law which bound the East Bank and the West Bank remained. The constitutional bonds gained more importance after the restoration

of Parliament in 1984.

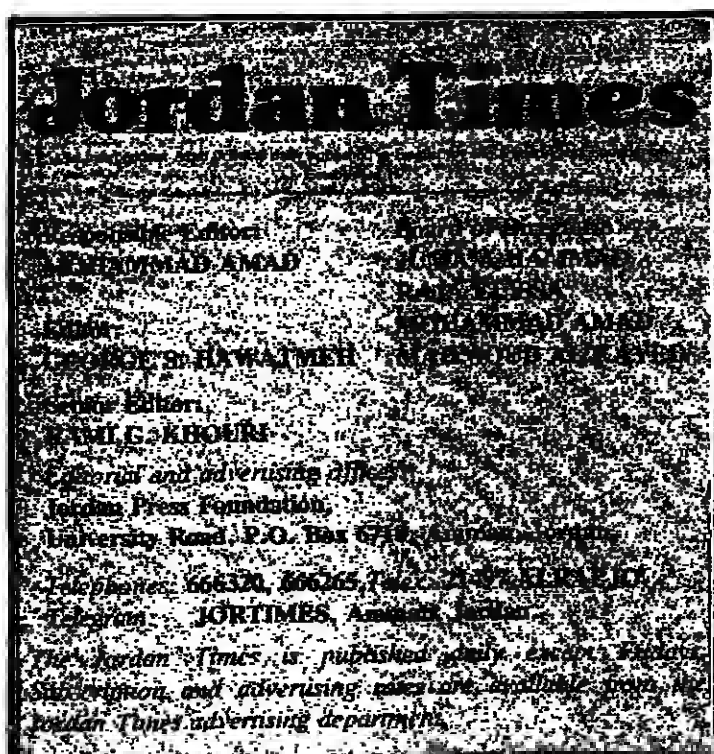
Third, the absence of a national solution for the Palestinian question based on a unified Arab strategy and the lack of interest on the part of international powers in endorsing a just basis for a solution for the Palestinian question.

Consequently, the statement said, the new electoral law should maintain a balance in Jordanian-Palestinian relations by achieving an equal, or at least close to equal, representation for Jordanians and Palestinians in the executive and the legislative branches.

Such a formula, the statement said, would provide security since it would block Israeli schemes of a substitute homeland for the Palestinians in Jordan and would allow a wider political participation for the Palestinians and Jordanians alike.

The issue of Palestinian representation in Jordanian institutions is perhaps the thorniest subject of the ongoing debate among Jordanian political personalities on the new electoral law. Some politicians express fears that if Palestinians in the East Bank are allowed to nominate themselves for parliamentary elections the vote will be divided along Jordanian-Palestinian lines and would consequently create divisions between the two peoples.

The statement of the UDA refutes these arguments, pointing out that preventing the Palestinians from running for elections will alienate them politically and will deprive them from directly electing their representatives, particularly that West Bank deputies are elected by the Lower House since elections cannot be held in the West Bank due to the Israeli occupation.



Lessons in Katyusha

ISRAELI troops and their South Lebanon militia allies were foraging and wreaking havoc into Lebanese villages outside Israel's self-declared border "security zone" yesterday and the night before. They were looking for the resistance fighters who fired a Katyusha rocket which hit the northern Israeli settlement of Kiryat Shmona on Thursday. This attack, rather than the Israeli retaliation that it drew, brings up some very interesting questions that the Israelis at least, given their persistent warrior mentality, would not be able to answer. How is it that guerrillas, Palestinian or Lebanese or both, can still fire rockets at Israeli settlements in northern Galilee even after the Israeli invasion of Lebanon, which, oddly enough, the Israelis called "peace for Galilee," and despite their occupation of a large chunk of Lebanese territory which is now called the "security zone"? If hundreds of thousands of Israeli troops, the best American weapons and the limitless U.S. support for Israel in a war of over three years have not prevented the resistance fighters from firing Katyusha rockets into northern Galilee, what should we conclude? That there can be no peace made by invasions and occupations? That force alone cannot in the end win you peace and stability? That, if there is going to be justice, other people's rights have to be answered and accommodated?

The fact that Palestinian or Lebanese fighters can still operate against Israeli settlements even after Israel has supposedly destroyed the PLO and its military infrastructure, and still occupies a large "security zone" in the south of Lebanon, should remind all those people who are concerned about the situation in the Middle East that the path to peace does not only pass through Israel's exaggerated concern about security, but rather it can only be achieved by simultaneous attention to all peoples' political rights and requirements — first and foremost those of the Palestinians.

The ability of Western, mainly American, politicians to see Israeli "security" as the bottom line of any developments towards a Middle East peace is as false and hollow as the self-proclaimed ability of Israel's militarists to assure the safety of northern Galilee by invading and occupying large parts of Lebanese territory.

More than anybody else, the Israelis and their backers should know that there can be no safety in guns, no peace in occupation and no comfort in self-delusion. But are they willing to listen to this logic and the voice of reason? Or will they ever want to learn from the lesson of those irrepressible Katyusha rockets?

ARABIC PRESS EDITORIALS

Al Rai: Reminders of reality

THE KATYUSHA rockets fired on Israeli settlements in upper Galilee have forced the Zionist settlers to hide in their shelters, a reaffirmation of the fact that these settlers are in no security and peace as they were told by their leaders following Israel's invasion of Lebanon.

The Israelis have become certain now that their occupation of southern Lebanon did not bring peace to their borders. These Israeli incursions into southern Lebanon on different occasions over the past few years have rather helped escalate resistance activity inside the occupied Arab lands and deprived the settlements in occupied Palestine of their peace and quiet.

Therefore, one should point out that all Israeli aggressive practices in Lebanon and Zionist plots against the Palestinians have all ended in total failure. There is no alternative for Israel but to re-examine its position in view of the fact that the Arabs are now re-building their intrinsic force and preparing the way for liberating their land.

At the same time all resistance activity against Israel should be backed and supported by the Arab countries in a bid to bring out moves towards a solution of the Palestine problem.

Al Dustour: Shameful U.S. actions

WE DO not condone the Libyan leader's irrational policies which constantly help escalate Arab and international tension, but at the same time we cannot keep a closed eye to American-Israeli threats to launch an open aggression against Libyan territory. Since the attacks on Rome and Vienna the United States and Israel have been threatening military action, and have actually been preparing for such action, against Libyan territory which they consider as a base for harbouring terrorists.

We cannot rule out the fact that Israel might launch an aggression on Libya or other Arab countries, but we feel it is shameful for the United States to follow an aggressive course against an Arab country in blind and total submission to Israel's will and Israel's aggressive policies. Perhaps the Americans should take a lesson from what had happened to them in Lebanon where Washington also followed in the footsteps of Israel and had to reap the consequences.

If the United States continues to ignore the Arab World's rights and overlook the past lessons and follows in the footsteps of the Zionists and launch an aggression on the Arabs, the whole region will be made insecure and open to further bloodshed and disasters.

Sawt Al Shaab: Another evil plan

ISRAEL HAS reportedly prepared a plan for applying what is termed as autonomous rule in the occupied West Bank and the Gaza Strip. This evil plan entails considering the whole of Palestine as Israeli land in which Zionist extremists plan to settle Jews from around the world and evict the legitimate Arab owners. This plan is an application of the Likud concept of seizing the land from the Arabs who should be regarded only as residents for the time being. This Zionist plan which is to be applied in 1986, according to the reports, can never change the facts about the history of the area and the people who lived there for centuries. The Israelis are thus preparing another form of aggression on the Arabs who ought to take proper action at all levels to thwart it.

It is clear that the Zionists aim at forcing the Arab countries to hold direct talks with the Zionist state, accepting its terms and conditions for a settlement which would be ignominious to the Arabs and favouring the Zionist dreams in Palestine.

Sunday's Economic Pulse

A review of 1985 and outlook for 1986

The following article is based on a luncheon talk the writer gave to a group of economic attaches from a number of foreign diplomatic missions in Amman several days ago.

IT IS difficult to talk about the outlook for the Jordanian economy in 1986, if we do not know yet what had actually happened in 1985.

Lack of accurate information and statistics at this time would not prevent us from making an educated guess.

Inflation rate in the past year was at around 4.3 per cent; a little bit higher than the 3.9 per cent of 1984, but still a very low and moderate rate by any standard. Money supply shrank by some two to three per cent for the first time in 15 years. Exports maintained the high level of 1984 with perhaps some growth; the gross commodity exports reached over JD 300 million. Imports are supposed to have dropped a little except for the stockpiling in

anticipation of higher production to domestic industry.

The gross domestic product (GDP) may have grown at around 2.5 per cent in real terms. Higher growth may be reflected by the gross national product (GNP), due to increase in external aid and other earnings from abroad.

Jordan's balance of payments is very close to the break-even point but that was due to heavy external borrowing of some JD 150 million.

In 1984 there were some other positive indicators: Arab aid increased due to a singular 80 million donation from the Sultanate of Oman, and \$50 million on account of late payments from the United Arab Emirates. The United States committed a moderate amount

(\$250 million) which is just starting to be received by our treasury.

On the other hand, if recovery per se has not taken place yet, at least we realise now that the down trend has bottomed off, and that the recession is not worsening any further.

Also the rapid depletion of the foreign exchange reserves, which took place in recent years, and accelerated in the first four months of 1985, has been reversed or stopped. This means more economic stability, more confidence in the transferability of the Jordanian dinar, and more strength of the financial position and credit worthiness of the country.

The Year 1986 looks to me to be more of the same. There will be no major difference in the economic performance and adjustments will continue to take place.

The budget of 1986 gives a sketch of how the Jordanian economy will fare in this new

year. The critical questions here are going to be first whether the government will be able to collect all the external aid listed in the budget. Second, whether it will be able to increase domestic revenues by 13 per cent without new taxes as the budget projects. And third, whether it will be able to control recurring expenditures, so that it will not increase by more than four per cent as the budget predicts.

If the answers to these questions are negative, the deficit will increase accordingly, and the government will have to borrow locally and internationally to close the gap and make ends meet.

The official figure for the projected deficit is JD 37 million, without taking into account the development borrowing of around JD 98 million. The deficit of course would be much more if the budgetary limits were not observed and fully adhered to.

The new five-year economic and social development plan has not been announced yet, and very little is known about its size and themes, except that the growth rate is expected to be six per cent for each year. However we do know that the main targets this time will be: the creation of more jobs to cope with unemployment, currently between six and nine per cent; and to save foreign exchange in order to reduce the structural deficit in the balance of payments position.

This may mean more exports, less imports, and less projects which are capital intensive and import oriented.

In the near future, I can see such policies like: more protection for local industry, more individual initiative enjoyed by the private sector, more market oriented economy, improvement in the economics of large scale projects especially potash, upgrading agriculture production and water res-

sources, promoting tourism, more emphasis on services and, more restrictions on foreign workers.

Jordan's long-term goal has always been self-reliance; nevertheless it still needs a lot of infusions of funds from external sources in the form of aid and soft loans. In fact the recession in Jordan which started at mid-1982 has no reason except the actual and expected decline in the external resources available to Jordan.

Jordan is a viable economic entity, but only within an integrated Arab region. It is an example of what a free enterprise system can achieve.

More aid is the effective way of helping to make this example a success. The economic policies to Jordan are far from perfect, but there is no doubt that foreign aid has been used wisely and efficiently to the full satisfaction of the friendly governments and international and regional financial institutions.

Zia's lifting of martial law puts civilians on the spot

By Tom Heneghan
 Reuter

ISLAMABAD — President Mohammad Zia-ul-Haq has once again shown himself to be Pakistan's most adroit politician by lifting martial law, restoring basic rights and leaving many people unsure of what it all means.

General Zia made good use of surprise tactics by unexpectedly reviving the constitution in full last week and not declaring a state of emergency to follow eight-and-a-half years of army rule.

By giving away more than was expected, he also stripped his critics of their standard argument that they would do more to oppose Zia if martial law were not so stripped his critics of their standard argument that they would do more to oppose Zia if martial law were not so strict.

The bill is now in the court of the civilians — both the elected members of parliament and the

traditional opposition outside it — who have to prove they actually represent public opinion as much as they say they do.

This could be difficult. National assembly members are still feeling their way in the new system and seem unsure about just how much initiative they can take.

The opposition, which boycotted partyless elections in February, spends more time on internal squabbling than planning a strategy to confront what it calls army rule in civilian guise.

"There are politicians in both groups who have profited by martial law, either by being appointed to positions by Zia or using the ban on political activities as an excuse to do nothing," said one senior military man who asked not to be named.

"Now they won't have that crutch. They will have to walk by themselves. Some may stumble."

By contrast, Zia, who seized power in July 1977 by over-



Mohammad Zia-ul-Haq

throwing Prime Minister Zulfikar Ali Bhutto, has been steadily following a plan for controlled civilian rule that he charted in August 1983.

He has held elections, formed a parliament and, with a delay of a few months, actually lifted martial law — much to the chagrin of his critics who have been saying for years he would never do anything of the sort.

Zia has kept considerable powers for himself and has never made a secret of the fact he thinks a no-holds-barred democracy is unsuitable for Pakistan.

He remains chief of army staff and has amended the constitution to give the presidency a more active political role. But it is not clear how active he will be or how much leeway parliament will have.

Even without martial law, officials retain a wide range of powers under the civil code to block political rallies and arrest dissidents. Opposition politicians will have to challenge these restrictions to see how often they will be used.

Freedom of the press, one of the basic rights given back last week,

still remains subject to a restrictive 1962 law. This allows the government to pressure and censor publications it does not like.

One of the biggest questions Zia's long-awaited speech left unanswered was how the banned political parties would be revived.

According to the political parties act passed by parliament this month, all parties must seek official approval before they can begin open political work.

The government has yet to spell out the ground rules for registration. Opposition politicians fear they could be pushed into a web of lengthy and complicated screening procedures before being approved or rejected.

The Pakistan People's Party (PPP), the largest opposition group, could split over the question of whether or not to register, political commentators say.

Benazir Bhutto, daughter of the deposed prime minister and head of the party, is expected to return from European exile early this year to find her followers locked in personal feuds and torn between following her and the party.

Tehrik-i-Istiqal, a moderate party led by former air force chief Asghar Khan, has expelled its brightest young politician, Aitzaz Ahsan, in squabble that worsened as the date for lifting martial law drew closer.

Zia has also left his own plans unclear, especially of whether he will retire from the army and show he actually trusts the transition to civilian rule he has started.

Political sources say he might resign in a few months since many other generals feel he should not keep both jobs.

Asked about this last week, Zia grinned and said: "Time will tell."

Indonesia raises spectre of Communist threat

By Peter Millership
 Reuter

JAKARTA — The military-backed government of Indonesia is raising the spectre of Communist subversion again, two decades after the three-million-strong party was destroyed. But diplomats say they wonder how real the threat is.

President Suharto, who came to power after crushing a Communist-backed coup in 1965, has revived warnings about leftist subversion, resumed executions of convicted Communists and ordered the mass dismissal of workers for past trade union links.

The retired General has also announced a campaign across the world's fifth biggest nation to screen 1.7 million former Communist Party members to see whether they should be allowed to vote in general elections in 1987.

But diplomats are asking whether his government really feels a threat from the extreme left or if the new campaign might be a smokescreen to mask Islamic unrest in the run-up to the elections in this nation of more than 165 million people.

"The moves might also be a signal to the largely Muslim nation that the secular government cur-

rently trying to top dissidents for subversion is not anti-Islam but anti-extremist," one senior Western diplomat said.

A top Asian diplomat said the crackdown was a reflection of Suharto's personal background. "He's from a village, a poor farmer's son haunted by a deep and genuine suspicion of a Communist revival."

In the early 1960s, under Indonesia's left-leaning first president, Sukarno, the Communist Party grew rapidly. Claiming 20 million supporters, it became the biggest Communist Party out of power anywhere in the world.

When plotters murdered six Generals on one night in 1965, in an attempt to force Sukarno further to the left, Suharto crushed the coup.

Gradually pushing Sukarno aside, Suharto harnessed the Communist Party and launched a purge of its membership.

No-one knows how many died in the violence which followed the coup when ardent Muslims wreaked revenge on Communist enemies and Suharto's security forces turned a blind eye.

But historians agree that up to 500,000 people were slaughtered. "The birth of the new order (Suharto's government) was a

bloodbath of horrific proportions," wrote M.C. Ricklefs, professor of history at Australia's Monash University.

Now, with the left apparently eradicated as a political force, senior officers say the main threat to Suharto's government is radical Islam — particularly after a Muslim riot last year and a wave of guerrilla bomb attacks which followed.

Since then the Command for the Restoration of Security and Order (KOPKAMTIB) — Indonesia's most powerful military body, set up just after the coup — has been trying to round up those responsible and nip any further unrest in the bud.

This month the military ordered the sacking of 1,700 oil workers for their past links with the Communist Party and the screening of a number of others. The dismissals were authorised in 1975 but never carried out.

"The question is why are they doing it now when they could have done it a decade ago?" asked a diplomat.

Military officers said privately that the dismissals were probably to weed out disgruntled Communists from the vital oil industry who could help Islamic extremists intent on sabotage.

One officer said KOPKAMTIB

had always dreaded a union between extreme left and radical Islam. Diplomats do not rule out concern over oil installations as a reason for the firings.

They also suggest the government delayed the dismissals to keep a skeleton in the cupboard for use if needed to distract the public from other issues, particularly Islam.

The Buru island penal colony where Suharto for years held thousands of Communists, mostly without trial, was closed five years ago and human rights groups say Indonesia has just 250 political detainees left.

But the executions of four former Communists earlier this year — old men who had spent a long time on death row — caused an outcry abroad from human rights organisations. The deaths were a reminder of Suharto's severity with extremists.

Jakarta's continued feeling about Communism is reflected in the fact that 20 years after the coup, blamed by Suharto on Peking, Chinese characters are still banned here.

Diplomats said it was only out of economic necessity that Suharto, who severed links with China two years after the coup, reopened trade ties this year. Diplomatic relations remain frozen.

Chilean army uncomfortable with Argentine trials

By Simon Alterman
 Reuter

SANTIAGO — Even before Chile's armed forces had digested the outcome of the junta trials in neighbouring Argentina, former police chief Cesar Mendoza was last week hauled before a court investigating political murders.

Mendoza's questioning was shielded from the full glare of publicity by a special law allowing him to testify in the tower block housing the offices of the military junta on which he served until last August.

But for the armed forces it carried an uncomfortable echo of the trials across the Andes which ended last week with five former junta members convicted for excesses committed during their time in power.

Although there was no public reaction to the verdicts from the military government here, diplomats say the armed forces were clearly paying close attention to the cases with an eye to their own future after 12 years of military rule.

Foreign military experts say the outcome could strengthen the hand of those Chilean officers looking for a negotiated transfer

of power to guarantee that there will be no reprisals, but may also make hardliners such as President Augusto Pinochet himself even more resistant to change.

Politicians, aware of the armed forces' sensibility, say that the case involving Mendoza is very different from the wide-ranging political trials in Argentina.

They note that such trials are effectively ruled out in Chile under a multi-party accord on the principles governing a return to democracy signed last August, which says that justice must be done in a spirit of national reconciliation.

"For that, trials which may take place for human rights violations will require responsible and well-founded evidence for specific crimes," it said.

"Such cases will be heard exclusively by existing courts, thus ensuring due process free from humiliations, revenge and collective ad-hoc trials."

The circumstances of the transition to democracy in Argentina, which played a large part in President Raul Alfonsin's decision to order the trials, are also unlikely to be repeated here, politicians and diplomats say.

"The Chilean armed forces are not demoralised. They are not suffering the massive reaction to military defeat," one foreign military expert said.

"In Argentina, they were obviously discredited after the Falklands war (against Britain) and were not in any position to negotiate."

Though Pinochet himself appears implacably opposed to any negotiation with his opponents, air force commander Fernando Matthei has spoken out in favour of talks with the parties in the accord and diplomats say he is not alone.

"Some people in the military want a negotiated way out, and a guarantee of no trials will be part of the negotiation," one diplomat said.

"Any deal that the accord might strike with the armed forces would fall flat on its face if it didn't include a cut-iron let-out clause for the military," said another.

But as in Argentina, human rights groups are less disposed to accept such political solutions.

"From the point of view of human rights, you cannot negotiate on this," said German Molina, secretary of the Chilean Human Rights Commission. "Social healing can only take

place through justice. The stability of democracy cannot rest on forgetting the past, but nor can it rest on revenge," he said.

Other human rights lawyers say the pressure for trials when military rule ends may be less than in Argentina because the courts have already begun to investigate some abuses.

The most dramatic of those was the murder last March of three Communist leaders, abducted in broad daylight and found with their throats slit the following night.

Judge Jose Canovas accused the intelligence service of the paramilitary police (Carabineros) of carrying out the crimes, triggering the downfall of Mendoza. Last week he questioned Mendoza himself after learning that he controlled that unit.

Diplomats say that despite some delay and obstruction of investigations, the government has turned the Chilean tradition of respect for legal formalities to its advantage by publicly expressing its willingness to cooperate with the courts.

But doubts remain about how far Pinochet is willing to go.

LETTERS

Restraints are needed

To the Editor:

Dr. Fahed Fanek's article in the Dec. 29, 1985, issue of the Jordan Times makes interesting reading. The treaty with Egypt is only part of the overall economic problem and I would like to invite your attention to one aspect of it which appears to be skirted around in all such dialogues.

This is the matter of the international value of the Jordanian dinar.

By all accounts this is over-high which aggravates the problem. The decrease in the value of the U.S. dollar — and by no means is that over — stresses that aspect even further.

If the international value of the dinar is moderated, the cement company would earn more in dinar terms even at the rather low selling price which is expressed in the dollar. And that would apply to all our exporting industries.

The priority in my mind is to earn foreign exchange. Only then would we be able to pay back the many loans and their interests as also earn enough to continue to import essential goods.

The argument which is put forward is that since we have so much to pay back, the dinar should be held high so that repayment, in dinar terms should be kept as low as possible. But then this really begs the question! At the high value of the dinar, we just don't earn anything at all to think of paying back!

A realistic value of the dinar would give a boost to industries like cement, fertiliser, phosphate, glass, etc., all of which are having serious difficulties in exporting their surplus of production. That devaluation would also give additional liquidity to these companies.

Apart from that, there would be the consequent discouragement of non-essential imports. For example I have seen in local shops imported "Kibbe" from Brazil! Many local industries suffer from competition from imports for this reason.

There is a strong need to protect local manufacturing industries so as to earn foreign exchange, provide local employment which has now become another major need. Jordan has a liberal import policy and if this is to remain, then the only other way is to have a more realistic value of the dinar. If local industries take improper advantage of this, there is always the tax factor which can remedy matters. But Jordan is not in a position where discipline is maintained by allowing attractive imports.

Other advantages of devaluation would be to diminish outgoings in remittances from earnings of foreigners who constitute a meaningful part of the work force here. Perhaps even discourage foreign employment, which is desirable.

It would also encourage tourism. At the moment middle class foreigners — who constitute the bulk of tourists all over — hesitate to think of a visit here at the costs this would involve them.

Jordan has become one of the most expensive places on earth! Then again it would encourage remittances from overseas from Jordanians whose remittances in the past have played a vital role in the foreign exchange position and which remittances are now in decline. There is need of an incentive to replenish that pump.

The annual budget has taken into account the possibility of a substantial subvention to balance itself. With the deteriorating economic situation all over, these subventions might well fall below expectation. At least one has to consider that possibility.

If that should materialise, then a devaluation would enable a larger local liquidity in dinar terms which will soften the blow. Of course, there are adverse consequences to be taken into account.

With so many essentials still to be imported the cost of living will go up. But once that initial shock is accepted, then the economy will absorb such increases as happened in the past with oil price increases. It is a "once" treatment.

In fact it will be a salutary shock. The addition to "foreign" goods will lessen. Local products will become more acceptable and by that very fact will in due course tend to improve in quality and design. After all the licensing policy in private industry is not to allow monopolies and that should remain a healthy deterrent.

The Jordanian economy should provide work for Jordanians and not for workers in Brazil, Germany and Japan. And soon enough Syria and Saudi Arabia look at their currency values! And whatever restraint and sacrifice is necessary to enable that to happen, should be considered.

I wonder if you would care to initiate a dialogue on this subject.

A. Rajagopalan
 Amman

Former Australian ambassador looks back at three years in Jordan with pleasure

By a Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — Richard Gates, the first Australian ambassador to Jordan, left back home last month after three years of service in which he contributed to laying down the foundations of strong and close bilateral relations in all fields between the two countries.

In an interview with the Jordan Times prior to his departure Mr. Gates said that relations between Jordan and Australia are expected to grow in importance since "Australia is seriously considering Jordan as an alternate source of phosphate."

Nauru, a tiny little island in the Pacific, has so far been Australia's source of phosphate but "phosphate is expected to disappear from Nauru within ten years and Jordan could be important as an alternative source," Mr. Gates said.

Over his past three years of Australian diplomatic representation in Jordan, bilateral cooperation and trade exchange have considerably increased, particularly in the fields of agriculture and archaeology. Australia is involved in "a small aid programme for the development of dry land and maintains good relations with Jordan's Cooperative Organisation while Jordan imports wheat and coal from Australia. Jordanian officials from the Ministry of Trade were invited to Australia recently to explore the possibilities of the trade exchange and cooperation," Mr. Gates noted. "I was also pleased to see that Aus-



Richard Gates

tralian archaeologists are involved in archaeological excavations in different sites in Jordan," he added.

Australia's interest in Jordan, however, is not only limited to trade and archaeology, but the political situation in the Middle East is also of great interest to the Australian government, which supports a peaceful settlement of the Palestinian question.

"We support a peaceful settlement along the lines of the United Nations Security Council Resolutions 242 and 338 which recognise the right of the Palestinian people to self-determination, provided the right of Israel to secure borders is also recognised and agreed upon," Mr. Gates explained. "We have noted with interest the steps that have been taken this year including His Majesty King Hussein's speech to the U.N. General Assembly on

Sept. 25," Mr. Gates said.

Mr. Gates, 53, a veteran diplomat who has already spent 29 years in the diplomatic service of his country, has represented Australia in seven countries spread among four continents, including Korea, Israel, Nauru, Italy, Burma and Jordan.

His first post was as an alternate Australian representative to the United Nations Commission for the Reunification and Rehabilitation of Korea where he spent two years.

In 1963 Mr. Gates was posted to Tel Aviv where he served as first secretary and later as charge d'affaires at the Australian embassy there. "It was my first time in the Middle East, so, I made sure to visit the different countries of the area," he said.

During his years in Tel Aviv Mr. Gates used to visit Jordan often. "I remember that my first impression was that Jordan was well governed," Mr. Gates said. "I noticed that, even more, when I later went to Amman where the rule of government did not extend that far," he added.

In 1965 Mr. Gates was posted to Kenya to open the first Australian diplomatic mission in Nairobi.

In 1970, Mr. Gates was appointed as the Australian commissioner to the Republic of Nauru which until 1968 was an Australian colony. He has special memories of the two by three miles island. "It was like living on a ship for two years," he recalled. "It was very interesting."

Despite the smallness of the island, it has been of extreme importance to Australia since "for more than 60 years it has been the main supplier of phosphate for us," Mr. Gates said.

In 1972, Mr. Gates was posted to Rome where he served as a counsellor. "Rome was a very interesting but difficult city," he said. He remembers that it was "a very important period in Italy, since, during those years (1974-1977) it looked like the Communist Party would get into government and all diplomats were following events with great interest."

After three years in Rome, Mr. Gates was appointed in the Pacific Affairs department in Canberra until 1980 when he was designated as ambassador to Burma. "Burma is a very important country for Australia in our part of the world," he said. The ambassador explained that Australia has its biggest foreign aid programme in Burma.

"The country has noticeably changed and developed in all fields particularly in the media and communication," he said. "But roads are still a problem in Jordan." "In general, Jordan is a very easy country for diplomats to work compared to other countries in the world. People and officials are very cooperative," he said.

Mr. Gates said that he was taking a two month leave since he has not been appointed to another area yet. "But I have told the department that I would prefer to spend some time in Canberra," he concluded.



A CHANGE OF SCENE: West German Chancellor Helmut Kohl (centre) and Defence Minister Manfred Wornat (right) and men of the 3rd Panzer Division about to make a toast on the

occasion of the recent celebrations marking the 30th anniversary of the Bundeswehr, the armed forces of West Germany (DaD photo)

Afghans find refuge in Iran, but numbers rising fast

By Hugh Pope

Reuter

SABZEVAR, Iran — Six years after the Soviet intervention in Afghanistan, neighbouring Iran is host to at least 1.8 million Afghan refugees and officials say up to 2,000 more arrive each day.

From Sabzevar, a windswept town between the Turkmenistan steppe and the central Iranian desert, newly-registered Afghans are taken to one of eight reception and quarantine camps.

There, wrapped in turbans, sheepskin capes and blankets, they receive food, enjoy hot water baths and are given a concrete cabin or a place to pitch their tent.

Above all, they get a chance to recover from what for some has been a dangerous journey of up to four months.

Most stay for only one or two weeks. Iranian officials decide where they will live after being medically cleared. Some bring back malaria, tuberculosis and leprosy to a country where these diseases had been eradicated.

The refugees face travel restrictions but are issued with a card that allows them to work and gives them access to rationed food supplies and free schooling for their children.

"In my experience, the Iranians' treatment of the refugees is exemplary," says Angelo Rasanayagam, head of the Tehran office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR).

U.N. assistance started coming only in 1984: \$7.5 million that year and about \$10.5 million in 1985.

At Sabzevar, this has brought a water tanker truck and an ambulance. The buildings, mosque, bath houses, clinic, bakery and stores were all built from the four billion rial (\$44 million) budget of Iran's Council for Afghan Refugees (CAR).

CAR chairman Hassan Bashir told the UNHCR magazine "Refugees" recently that Iran's top priority was to integrate Afghans "with permanent solutions to their problems."

Afghans are the backbone of Iran's construction industry and factory owners say they also prefer them because they work harder than Iranians for less money. But with unemployment in Iran at 20 per cent, Afghans say they are no longer allowed to settle in Tehran, nearby Qom or the eastern city of Mashhad.

Bashir said he wants to channel new arrivals into farming and traditional Afghan skills, like handicrafts.

Rasanayagam said the U.N. hoped to help Iran with projects to set up whole new agricultural villages in south-east Iran.

Most Afghans coming to Iran speak Persian and are no strangers to the country. Sabzevar camp director Mohammad Banj Assadi said 40 per cent of new arrivals had been to Iran before and 60 per cent had relations already living here.

They are also all Muslims. U.N. officials estimate that, even before the Soviet intervention in December 1979, some 600,000 Afghans were working in Iran to send back money to their families — a practice which Afghans say they keep up through Afghan guerrilla groups, several of which have offices in Iran.

The Soviet newspaper, Pravda said in March that Iran maintains military training camps for the guerrillas in eastern Iran, but Iranian officials play down any military involvement.

"We give humanitarian assistance," Ali Khalkhali, CAR's deputy chief in the northeast Khorasan province, told Reuters. He said two or three wounded guerrillas were treated at the government's expense every week.

Afghans in Iran do not, how-

ever, have a trouble-free image. Following a crime wave in the central Iranian city of Yazd, they are under an eight p.m. to five a.m. curfew. They are also often arrested for involvement in Iran's narcotics trade, and some Iranians speak with growing dispassion of the Afghans.

"There's just too many of them," said a taxi driver in Mashhad, where the U.N. estimates that registered Afghan refugees alone make up a quarter of the population of 1.2 million.

Afghans say it takes more than two weeks to get permission to travel from one town to another and that their movements are checked. But many say they regularly return to Afghanistan.

Many of the refugees say they are fighters just back in Iran for a break or to take their families to a safe place before returning to their fighting groups.

"I took my wife out of Herat when our house was destroyed by rockets fired by a helicopter. I will take her to my parents in Mashhad. Then I will go back to my group," said a new arrival in Sabzevar. Khalil Ahmad, 25.

The Afghans' cling fiercely to their traditions. Sabzevar camp director Banj Assadi said that barbed wire separating the bachelors' tents from those of the family areas was primarily there at the refugees' request.

In another enclosure, tribal Afghans used their own tents. Women could be seen using old sheep-shaped water skins in preference to new plastic containers supplied by Iran.

Sultan Ali, 35, repeated other refugees' satisfaction with their treatment at Sabzevar, 560 km east of Tehran, and in Iran in general.

"I'm one hundred per cent happy. Our Iranian brothers are serving us night and day. They consider it their Islamic duty," he said.

Afghans in Iran do not, how-

New Soviet mission revives idea of man on Mars

By Tony Barber

MOSCOW — The Soviet Union is preparing for its first unmanned mission to Mars since the early 1970s, raising the possibility that the dream of landing men on the red planet may come one step closer.

Working with scientists from a group of Western and Eastern European countries, the Soviets are planning to launch two laser-equipped spacecraft towards Mars and one of its moons, Phobos, in the middle of 1988.

Nedelya, weekly supplement to the government newspaper Izvestia, said the crafts would first amass data on conditions on Mars and then switch into a "hedge-hopping" flight over Phobos, flying no more than 30 to 70 metres above the moon's surface.

It said scientists were studying the possibility of landing probes on Phobos which could transmit information directly from the moon's surface. A Soviet craft made the first soft-landing on Mars in 1971 but no probes have landed on its two moons.

During the mission, the first Soviet flight to Mars since 1973, the craft will also fire laser and ion beams at Phobos to vaporize substances on its surface for analysis.

Although the mission is billed as part of a long-standing programme of unmanned exploration, the revived Soviet interest in Mars has caused some space experts in the West to wonder whether the Phobos flight is a first move in a long-term plan for a manned mission to the planet.

Mars is the only body in space marked for possible exploration in the near future: Venus is too hot and Earth's satellite, the Moon, has no air or water.

Interest in a manned flight to Mars has been raked by increasing evidence that it has large amounts of water below its surface.

This evidence, chiefly from some 20,000 pictures taken by two U.S. Viking spacecraft orbiting Mars, has led some U.S. scientists to suggest that, if the water proves accessible, a manned flight to Mars could be feasible before the end of the century.

A Soviet space official, Oleg Gizenko, told reporters in October the Soviet Union had no immediate plans for a manned flight to Mars. "This is a very costly enterprise," he added.

But the idea still surfaces periodically in the official Soviet Press, and one former cosmonaut, Konstantin Feoktistov, said in November last year that, if necessary, the Soviet Union could send a manned mission to the planet within 10 years.

The official Soviet line is that a decision to send men to Mars would be taken only if there was a certainty of making major scientific breakthroughs on the trip, such as the discovery of organic life.

The trail-blazing for that kind of discovery, Western experts said, would be made by the type of unmanned craft which the Soviet Union is sending up in 1988.

One Western embassy specialist in Moscow noted that, unlike the United States, which has sent men to the moon, the Soviet Union has had no experience of sending spacecraft out of the earth's orbit.

"The question is, do the Soviets have the ability to mount a manned mission to Mars?" he asked. "It is a long, long journey, an incredible undertaking. It would take years of an astronaut's life, there and back."

Three Soviet cosmonauts, Lennid Kizim, Vladimir Soloviyov and Oleg Alkov, set an endurance record by staying 238 days on the orbiting Salyut-7 space station last year.

Experts said their mission could have served a dual purpose — to bring the Soviet Union closer to its declared goal of creating a permanently manned space station, and to test the capacity of cosmonauts for even longer interplanetary flights.

"I don't think that the two are mutually exclusive," one Western expert said.

Quite apart from the enormous cost, considerable problems stand in the way of a mission to Mars.

Specimen would have to take unprecedented amounts of food and supplies with them and would probably have to find some way to create fuel from the Martian atmosphere for their vehicles.

An embassy specialist said physical problems, including muscle atrophy, weakening of the heart and loss of bone calcium, would present a tough challenge.

Teachers fight to reclaim place in British society

By Nicholas Phythian

Reuter

LONDON — Britain's school teachers, angry at seeing their profession slip down the job pecking order, are fighting an increasingly bitter classroom battle for higher pay.

After 10 months of selective strikes and working by the rule book, they have drawn up plans to take a campaign of disruption in the country's state schools into a second year.

"We are not prepared any longer to tolerate a situation whereby, as our workload increases and our job becomes more stressful, our pay plunges lower and lower by comparison with other professions," Fred Jarvis, head of the biggest union, the National Union of Teachers (NUT), told a protest rally.

The teachers, whose profession is traditionally ranked with the law, medicine or the church in British society, say they now earn less than policemen and some colleagues are having to supplement their income with welfare payments or second jobs.

The campaign of selective strikes, which began in February, has hit schools all over Britain, disrupting preparation for exams as well as sport and other out-of-school activities.

But Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher's Conservative government, pledged to curb public

spending, says there is no more money and ministers have accused the teachers of disregarding the welfare of Britain's 9.4 million school children in pursuit of personal gain.

But leaders of Britain's 463,000 teachers say government policy towards education has left them no alternative.

They say teachers are underpaid and undervalued and that their basic salary — from 5,442 sterling (\$7,700) at the bottom to 22,900 (\$32,750) for headmasters — is so low that high-calibre potential recruits go elsewhere.

Applications to train for secondary school teaching are a quarter down this year and teachers warn of a serious shortage in mathematics and physics.

The campaign for pay began in England and Wales, where local authorities are the employers, with demands for 12.4 per cent increases. The main unions have spoken of demands for 1986 as high as 35 per cent.

The NUT will ask members in January to reaffirm the campaign of strikes and disruptions and wants all teachers to strike for half a day a month, at least until March.

Scottish teachers, employed by an arm of central government, want an independent pay review and have also been striking.

In a bid to break the deadlock, Education Secretary Sir Keith Joseph has offered a 1.25 billion

sterling (\$1.79 billion) package over four years, but with strings attached.

One condition is that teachers accept annual assessment. The other is that they undertake voluntary duties such as deputising for sick colleagues as part of their contractual duties.

Educational standards have been a major theme of debate in Britain in recent years. Employers complain that some youngsters are leaving school unable to read, write or add up properly.

The government's offer is in part a response to this, by offering greater financial incentives for good teachers and a mechanism to weed out poor ones.

But the NUT refuses to link pay and conditions of work. Real pay has dropped a third since 1974 while the demands of modern society have made the job harder, teachers say.

Increasing violence in Britain's schools, particularly in inner cities, has led to more attacks on teachers.

British teachers, unlike colleagues in some other countries, are responsible for discipline and much administration.

Extra duties, for which they are not paid, include supervision of breaks and school meals, running sports and cultural clubs after school and meeting parents.

Teachers have mounted selective strikes lasting up to three days and a ban on voluntary duties

in pursuit of their claim.

The local authorities, controlled by the opposition Labour Party, have offered a five per cent rise and informal talks have pushed this up to a notional 7.5 per cent, but the employers say they can offer no more without extra government cash.

Thatcher and Joseph have steadfastly refused. They and their supporters have accused teachers of harming their pupils' chances in life.

Thatcher herself recently proposed that local authorities lock striking teachers out of schools, although both the employers and unions have voiced doubts about the legality of such action and described the suggestion as badly timed.

Talks between the two sides had just resumed after three months and a cabinet meeting called to look for solutions to the dispute decided the government should do nothing while negotiations were in progress.

Thatcher has had a chequered relationship with Britain's educational establishment.

In the 1970s, she was dubbed "Thatcher the milk snatcher" when as education minister she stopped free school milk.

In January, the academics of Oxford University, where she studied chemistry, refused her an honorary doctorate, citing her government's cuts in education spending as the reason.

Egypt grapples with politics of bread

By Hamza Hendawi

Reuter

CAIRO — Bread is a hot political commodity in Egypt, where people judge their leaders by its quality and where price rises can spark riots.

This poses problems for a government trying to raise prices and stop waste, and under foreign pressure to end subsidies inherited from the socialist era of the 1960s.

Bread has always been more than just a staple to Egyptians. Back in Pharaonic times, they insisted on having loaves buried with them. They call bread "eish" (life).

Egypt, the world's biggest flour importer and a lucrative wheat market, spends more than \$1 billion a year to make cheap bread available for the poor and hungry.

Four of every five loaves are baked from imported wheat, mostly American, and producing a loaf costs four times the street price of three U.S. cents or less.

The government is under foreign pressure, especially from the International Monetary Fund (IMF) and the United States, its main aid donor, to end subsidies.

At the same time, the United States, Australia and the European Community (EC) are competing for flour and wheat sales to Egypt, which imports a total of 6.6 million tonnes a year and has a fast-growing population of 49 million.

A flat, round loaf of unleavened bread costs one or two piasters (1.5 or three U.S. cents), and Cairo's 12 million people waste 40 per cent of what they buy. Western economists here say it is so cheap that farmers feed it to their cattle and poultry.

Nearly half the \$2.4 billion to be

spent on subsidised basic commodities this fiscal year from October will go on bread.

Any attempt to cut subsidies and raise prices is resisted. The government had to back down on a plan to put up prices that sparked riots in 1977.

Since then, the government has only tinkered with the problem by trying to wean Egyptians on to a "new, improved" loaf at double the price.

Foreign diplomats and bankers believe the price, still among the world's lowest, has to go up. Rising flour and wheat imports — forecast by the U.S. Department of Agriculture at eight million tonnes by 1990 — will pose financial strains.

At the same time, hard currency earnings from remittances by expatriate workers, oil, tourism and Suez Canal tolls are either falling or stagnant.

Western experts said Egypt cannot count on repeating recent bargain wheat and flour deals.

In interviews with Reuters, they said the United States sold Egypt 675,000 tonnes of flour and wheat at below-market prices in September to help recapture markets lost to the European Community.

Australia has pledged two million tonnes of wheat for 1986 at lower prices than originally quoted, they said.

The experts say the United States is offering another 500,000 tonnes of wheat and 425,000 tonnes of flour to Egypt for 1986 delivery at tender dates still to be fixed.

Agriculture Minister Yousef Wali says Egypt, whose own wheat output is some 2.5 million tonnes a year, will continue to rely heavily on imports until the year 2000.

Teaching Africans what they already know

The assumption that Africans need to be taught by foreign experts how to conserve their environment is incorrect, says a leading Zambian anthropologist. In fact a tradition of living in harmony with nature is deeply ingrained in African culture. Donatus de Silva is an assistant director at Earthscan, and is in charge of Earthscan's Focal Country Programme.

LUSAKA, Zambia — Do Africans need outside "experts" to teach them conservation? A leading Zambian anthropologist says no, and argues that environmental programmes would be more successful if they drew upon the deeply ingrained African tradition of living in harmony with nature.

Wildlife experts from international organisations working in Africa often talk about environmental concerns as though they are new issues to the people of the continent. This common misconception, according to Dr. Francis Musonda, Head of the Department of Humanities and Social Sciences at the Livingstone museum, is contradicted by the historical facts.

Wildlife conservation in Zambia dates back to several hundred years before the arrival of Europeans on the continent. Musonda's research has revealed that most African societies discouraged the wanton killing of animals and destruction of plants.

For instance, among the Gwembe Tonga tribe in Zambia's Mpika District, care is taken not to harm the young animals during hunting expeditions. Hunters dig large pits and set up traps designed to catch big animals, allowing young and small-sized ones to escape. Whenever a young animal falls into the pit or gets entangled in the net, hunters release it.

Another conservation measure widespread in traditional societies discourages the consumption of small fish. The size of fishing nets and baskets is regulated to allow small fish to pass through. Bre-

eding areas are avoided during fishing expeditions.

But perhaps the most effective conservation practice among African societies, Musonda has discovered, is the observation of wildlife taboos. Bans on the hunting and eating of certain animals are effective in a number of societies.

In Zambia's Biza Valley a local tradition prohibits people from eating hippo meat. The Lamba-speaking people in the Copperbelt Province maintain a number of taboos relating to the hunting of elephants. Elephant hunting, for example, would be halted if the party encountered two elephants fighting each other. This was regarded as a sign that a woman back in the village had struck a child in anger. A whole herd lying down indicated a death back in the village, and this also meant that hunting had to stop.

Under the traditional "chitemene" system of shifting cultivation, the soil too was subject to conservation measures. Musonda believes that colonialists and African experts trained in Western universities are too quick to deny chitemene, which is practised throughout central and northern Zambia.

But the African peasant is keenly aware of the dangers of over-cultivating tropical soil, which loses its nutrients quicker than soils in the temperate zone. Thus, traditional farmers developed shifting cultivation, by means of which the vegetation in an area is burned to fertilize the soil, which is then planted, harvested, and left to lie fallow for a number of years until it has regenerated itself.

"Although this method of agriculture cannot be continued now because of growing population pressures, colonial administrators never appreciated the concern for soil conservation among African peasants," Musonda has found.

"Furthermore," he points out, "many African societies have a deep awareness of the importance of wild plants and species, particularly for medicinal purposes."

Northern and African medical experts are only just beginning to discover the vast amount of knowledge among "medicine men."

The accumulated agricultural wisdom of many societies shows itself in the choice of crops. People living in the Gwembe Valley encourage the growth of local drought-resistant species such as bull-rush millet. Under harsh conditions the millet has greater

chance of survival than maize, which is widely propagated by agricultural experts and preferred by consumers in the cities.

Traditional knowledge about the uses of wild plants and animals was, until recently, transmitted orally from generation to generation. Musonda warns that unless African governments make a determined effort soon to document such information, much of it will disappear by the end of this century. Partly responsible will be the engrained colonial attitude that the average African is ignorant of the necessity for, and methods of, environmental protection.

This attitude was evidenced by the way in which colonial administrators, to conserve wildlife, set up national parks and game reserves. Continued by African governments and supervised by western-trained game wardens, the reserves were designed to protect the animals from Africans.

Today, they are run mainly for the benefit of tourists — who hunt animals purely for recreation — and local tour companies.

Pointing out that such attitudes are totally alien to African culture, Musonda has called for drastic changes in wildlife conservation activities. Education programmes should be redesigned to incorporate traditional wildlife concepts. Local people living around national parks and game reserves need to be involved in the management of these areas, an action which may result in a significant reduction in poaching — Earthscan feature.



"I don't understand how you survived before we arrived"

well in life

Nicholas stars, hitting hat-trick in Arsenal win against Grimsby

LONDON (R) — Former European champions Liverpool put their indifferent league form behind them Saturday, opening their English Football Association (F.A.) Cup campaign with a 5-0 mauling of Norwich City.

Norwich, leaders of the second division, were expected to give Liverpool a good run for their money in the third round tie at Anfield. But Liverpool, without a win in their last five games, were never stretched after Kevin Macdonald had shot them ahead in the 24th minute.

Arsenal's Scottish international Charlie Nicholas was the individual star on a day when nine ties, including cup holders Manchester United's home clash with Rochdale was postponed because of frost.

He hit a hat-trick in the thrilling 4-3 away win over second division Grimsby.

Newcastle and Leicester, two first division sides with a long history of success in the F.A. Cup, fell at the first hurdle — beaten by opposition from lower divisions.

Former England captain Gerry Francis played a key role in third division Bristol Rovers' emphatic

3-1 win over Leicester, who have won the cup four times, and second division Brighton, losing finalists in 1983, won 2-0 at Newcastle.

Brighton never looked back after Eric Young had given them the lead after only 50 seconds.

Aston Villa, record seven times winners of the competition, were saved from a similar fate at Portsmouth by an 89th minute goal by Paul Birch which tied the score at 2-2.

First division Ipswich's bid to set an all-time record for successive triumphs at this stage of the cup was checked by second division Bradford.

Ipswich, who last lost in the third round in the 1969-70 season, scrambled a 4-4 draw at home after trailing three times.

While the lower divisions generally fared well in the round which traditionally throws up

major surprises, there was no joy for the two part-time clubs in action Saturday.

Frickley Athletic were beaten 3-1 by Rotherham and Wycombe Wanderers' Cup run ended with a 2-0 defeat at York.

Arsenal, who were victims of a cup upset at York last season, looked set for another embarrassing day when Gary Lund gave Grimsby an early lead.

But the day belonged to Nicholas after Graham Rix had equalised. He hit his first hat-trick in English soccer inside 28 minutes.

Norwich's run of seven successive victories gave promise of a closely contested match at Anfield.

But Liverpool adapted much better on a pitch which was barely playable following a snowstorm. Once Macdonald had broken the deadlock, the goals flowed from Paul Walsh, Steve McMahon, Ronnie Whelan and John Wark.

Watford, who lost 2-0 to Everton in the 1984 cup final, hit fellow first division side Coventry with a three-goal burst in 10 minutes in the second half of their tie at Coventry.

Colin West, with two goals, and Kenny Jackett turned the match upside down between the 61st and 71st minutes after Brian Kildine had given Coventry the lead. Watford won 3-1.

In Scotland, Dundee United stepped up their challenge for the Premier League title with a 4-2 win over Celtic, another of the front runners.

A sizzling first half performance brought United four goals inside the opening half hour. Their marksmen were Davie Dodds (2), Eamonn Bannon, with a penalty, and Kevin Gallagher.

United are four points behind pace-setting Hearts, but have three games in hand.

Hearts trailed at Motherwell to a first half goal by John Reilly but they bounced back after the break to beat the bottom club 3-1 with goals by Ian Jardine, Neil Berry and John Robertson.

Aberdeen showed a rare glimpse of the form which earned them the championship last season as they beat St. Mirren 3-1 and Ally McCoist hit a hat-trick in Rangers' 5-0 trouncing of Dundee.

Chicago Bears prepare to rush Giants' Simms

NEW YORK (AP) — The Chicago Bears, who have humbled several quarterbacks this season, have set their sights on a fresh target.

Sunday's intended victim is pro bowl quarterback Phil Simms of the New York Giants, who face the Bears in a National Football Conference (NFC) playoff game.

"Simms sits in the pocket," said Bears linebacker Otis Wilson, whose hit knocked out Danny White during Chicago's 44-0 regular-season rout of Dallas. "He'll wait there."

"I don't think he's going to change," defensive lineman William "The Refrigerator" Perry said of the Giants quarterback. "He might have watched the Miami film and try to roll out, but I don't

know." The Bears-Giants NFC semifinal game in Chicago will be followed by an American Football Conference (AFC) semifinal pairing the New England Patriots at the Los Angeles Raiders.

The Bears haven't had an important game in weeks after rolling to the NFC central division title with a 15-1 record, the only loss coming at Miami. They spent most of the week in warm-weather Georgia, getting themselves into an angry mood.

"We got embarrassed last year in the NFC championship game," defensive tackle Steve McMichael said of the Bears' weak playoff loss to San Francisco. "That's all you can say about it, and it grates on your mind."

McMichael said the Bears are relaxed except in practice, where the workouts have been intense.

McMichael revealed an intense dislike for Giants offensive coordinator Ron Erhardt, who was head coach at New England during McMichael's brief stay there in 1980.

"He told me I wasn't good enough to play pro football," McMichael said on Erhardt.

Since Erhardt will be in the press box, will Michael be going after Simms instead?

"Yes, indeed," he said. The Giants, meanwhile, believe their down-to-the-wire battle for a playoff spot will serve them well against the Bears.

"We know what war is," New York defensive end Leonard Mar-

shall said. "We've been fighting for our lives for the last five weeks."

"It's to our advantage," defensive lineman Casey Merrill said. "We're programmed for a fight."

Another possible target for the Bears could be running back Joe Morris, who set a team rushing record this season. Morris, however, suffered bruised ribs in last Sunday's playoff victory over the 49ers.

New England made the playoffs with an 11-5 record after starting the season 2-3, including a 35-20 loss to the Raiders.

Steve Grogan replaced Tony Eason at quarterback and sparked the 6-0 midseason rally by the Patriots. Eason got the job back when Grogan suffered a broken leg and has played well. Grogan may be reactivated for the game.

Kingston beats Marathon Oil

LONDON (R) — American basketball champions Marathon Oil from Chicago lost 117-98 to English champions Kingston in the semifinals of the World Invitation Club tournament Friday night.

Kingston's England international Martin Clark, formerly at Boston College in Massachusetts, scored 47 points as Marathon, seeded third, were swept aside after trailing 66-45 at break.

Kingston's American centre Dan Davis, from Carolina, notched 23 points and teammate Steve Eumtrager scored 24. Both played for the Evangelist team athletes in action in the states before joining Kingston in 1984.

Kevin Sprewer, from Loyola University, was Marathon's leading player with 22 points.

Becker, Wilander to meet in final of Young Masters tennis tourney

WEST BERLIN (R) — Defending champion Boris Becker of West Germany and top-seeded Mats Wilander of Sweden did what was fully expected Saturday, reaching the final of the \$150,000 Young Masters tennis tournament.

Becker, the second seed, had little trouble beating Spain's Emilio Sanchez 6-4, 6-4 but Wilander, on brilliant form all week, was surprisingly made to struggle by Jakob Hlasek of Switzerland before winning his semifinal 6-3, 7-6.

Sunday's best-of-five-set final gives Wilander a chance to avenge

a defeat by Becker last month in the Davis Cup final in Munich, his second successive loss to the Wimbledon champion.

"It wasn't the difficult to get motivated playing Boris," Wilander said. He serves well so it's difficult to break him.

"He goes for a lot of shots. It's always tough against him," he added.

Wilander had dropped just six games in three matches in this tournament for players under 22 and looked to be coasting again when he broke in the fourth game, took the first set 6-3 and opened a 5-2

lead in the second.

But Hlasek, whose aggressive style had been exposed by Wilander's astute passing shots and lobs, suddenly came to life. He saved match point at 5-2, another at 5-3 and two more at 5-4.

In the tiebreak it was Wilander's turn to fight back. He trailed five points in one, saved three set points from 6-3 down and then a fourth before clinching it 9-7.

"This sort of thing happens sometimes," Wilander said. "You miss a few easy points and the other guy starts to relax and play better. I don't think I managed to get my concentration back."

Sanchez, 20, played a lively, attacking game against the 19-year-old Becker, but Becker served so well he was never in any real danger.

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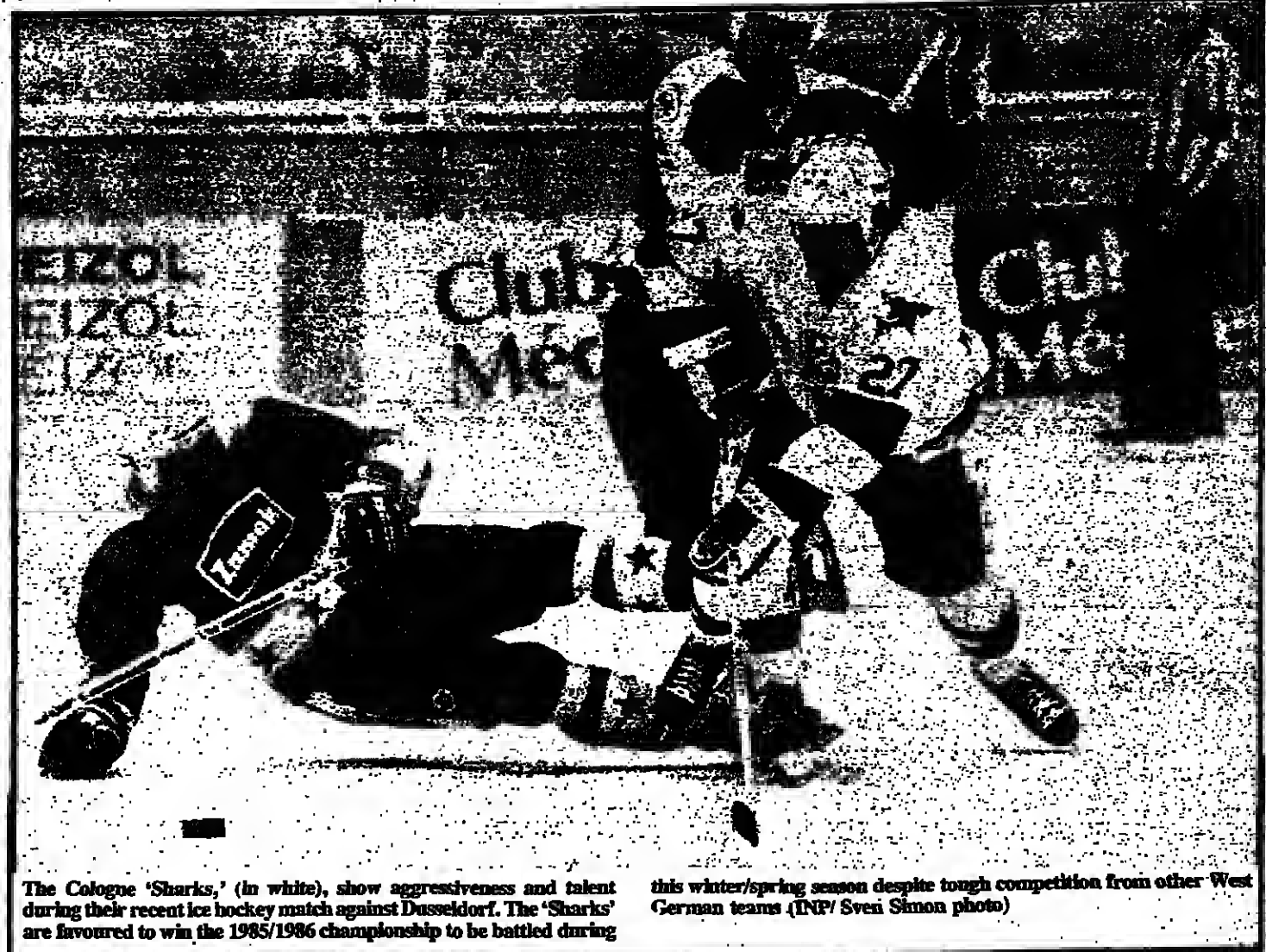
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The Cologne 'Sharks,' (in white), show aggressiveness and talent during their recent ice hockey match against Düsseldorf. The 'Sharks' are favoured to win the 1985/1986 championship to be battled during

this winter/spring season despite tough competition from other West German teams (INP/Sven Simon photo)

Los Angeles Lakers use reserves to win

NEW YORK (AP) — Kareem Abdul Jabbar was down and Earvin "Magic" Johnson was out, yet the Los Angeles Lakers still had enough in reserve to beat the Utah Jazz.

"They showed why they are the world's champions," Utah coach Frank Layden said after Friday night's 110-101 National Basketball Association (NBA) loss to the Lakers. "They ran into adversity. Magic was out. Kareem had five fouls and their back-up centre was ejected. They are a championship team and they did what they had to do."

While Jabbar wound up with 25 points and James Worthy 24, a big key to the Lakers' victory was the play of reserve Michael Cooper, who picked up the team after Johnson was ejected for two technical fouls and Jabbar was saddled with foul trouble.

In other NBA action, it was Cleveland 130, Los Angeles Cl-

ippers 111; Milwaukee 107, Washington 100; Atlanta 111, Detroit 101; Boston 129, New Jersey 117; Seattle 117, Denver 107 and Portland 133, Phoenix 104.

Cavaliers 130, Clippers 111

World B. Free scored 22 points and Mel Turpin added 20 as seven Cleveland players scored in double figures in an easy victory over the Los Angeles Clippers.

Bucks 107, Bullets 100

Terry Cummings scored a season-high 31 points as Milwaukee defeated Washington. The victory was the fifth straight for the Bucks, who at 10-9 are one of five NBA teams with a winning record.

Cliff Robinson scored 26 points to lead the Buffets, who have lost

four of their last five home games.

Hawks 111, Pistons 101

Dominique Wilkins scored a game-high 32 points to lead Atlanta over Detroit. It was Detroit's sixth straight loss and 10th in the Pistons' last 11 games. Doc Rivers had 17 points and 13 assists for the Hawks.

Kelly Tripucka led the Pistons with 26 points, including 16 in the first quarter. Bill Laimbeer had 22 points and a game-high 17 rebounds, and Isiah Thomas added 21 points.

Celtics 129, Nets 117

Larry Bird scored 29 points, Dennis Johnson 24 and Kevin McHale 23 as Boston rolled to its fourth consecutive victory. Veteran guard Jerry Sichting, given a rare start as a replacement for injured

ured Danny Ainge, scored a season-high 17 points in helping Boston improve its home record to 14-1.

Albert King and Mike Gminski led the Nets with 20 points, one more than Buck Williams.

Supersonics 117, Nuggets 107

Seattle center Jack Sikma scored a season-high 32 points and pulled down 14 rebounds as the Supersonics charged back from a first-half deficit to beat Denver.

Trail Blazers 133, Suns 104

Kiki Vandeweghe scored 30 points and Clyde Drexler had 18 points, 10 rebounds and 10 assists to lead Portland over Phoenix. Portland shot 62 per cent from the floor compared with the Suns' 52 per cent.

Finland to mark ski jumping centenary with new assurances of mastery, talent

HELSINKI (R) — Finland, where ski jumping this year celebrates its centenary, is sure to mark the occasion with another glorious episode in its mastery of the sport.

A new crop of brilliant youngsters has begun to emerge to back up the dominance of world champion Matti Nykanen, who is now keen to recover his reputation after temporarily blinding his copybook last month.

Foremost among the new wave is Pertti Saunsa, 18, widely regarded as Finland's second-ranked jumper after Nykanen.

He took full advantage of his opportunity when Nykanen, 22, was dropped from the Finnish squad following a poor performance and controversy surrounding his behaviour on tour in Canada and the United States.

Nykanen was sent home under a cloud after charges from his coach that he had disturbed his teammates and had troubles with his drinking habits.

Saunsa, an outstanding all-round athlete, proved his quality by beating the world's best at Oberstdorf in West Germany on the opening day of European ski

jump week on Dec. 30 and then jumping well for seventh place in the second day.

Finland's ski jumping critics say Saunsa will take his place among the sport's elite if he can find consistency, a problem which faces all young jumpers, and cure a habit of displaying his skills during flight — a hemish which brings law marks from the style judges.

He will also need to stand comparison with a revived Nykanen who has been reinstated in the Finnish squad after patching things up with the Finnish ski federation.

Eminence in the sport in Finland, and elsewhere, is usually nearly reached by jumpers who start the sport at an early age and the number of good jumpers is low, inevitably, because most would-be practitioners are scared off by the dangers.

Saunsa, who is studying to be an electrician, began jumping when he was eight... and he has overcome any fear.

The Finnish national squad also contains several other promising youngsters including Ari-Pekka Nikkola, 16, who is feeling his way

into top-flight international competition.

Much is hoped from him in the sport which has captured the enthusiasm of the Finns since it was first introduced as a competitive event in 1886 in Helsinki.

Ski jumping was originally established even earlier in the century by Norway. Today, Norway, Finland and neighbouring Sweden make a powerful Nordic triumvirate.

They have been gradually joined on equal terms by countries in eastern and western Europe, Japan, the U.S. and Canada.

Stars like Nykanen couple with the advent of television have helped bring ski jumping to the notice of hundreds of millions of sports fans, but, strangely, the Finnish ski federation told Reuters there are no plans to formally celebrate the centenary.

With the growing appeal of the sport has come steady progress in its spectacle and appeal. The jumping — from natural hills or artificial ramps on to a profiled slope of hard-packed snow — has gradually increased in length and the first 100 metre leap was made in

Germany 50 years ago.

It has been customary to speak of 70-metre and 90-metre hills; but, on international recommendation, these names are now being changed to "low hill" and "high hill."

Ski jumping also includes ski flying which can only be done from giant hills at Oberstdorf in West Germany, Kulm in Austria, Planica in Yugoslavia and Vikersund in Norway.

The emphasis in ski flying is on length of jump, not style. The current world record is held by Nykanen with a leap of 191 metres made at Planica last year, the longest ever by a skier.

On the ground, a top-class sprinter would take almost 20 seconds to cover the distance. Jumpers doing ski flying are in the air longer.

Critics predict new record

Nykanen, a master of the sport, has said this season's ski flying championship at Kulm, is his major target and the critics have predicted a new record as Nykanen is expected to face challenges from all the top ski jumpers.

NOTICE

The revised office timings of Embassy of India, Amman are as follows:
8.00 a.m. to 2.15 p.m. from Saturday to Thursday.
Consular services will be rendered on all working days except Wednesdays from 9.00 a.m. to 11 a.m.

The office will remain closed on Fridays.

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SDI may give mighty boost for Moscow, experts say

WASHINGTON (R) — President Reagan's "Star Wars" space defence project could backfire against the United States by providing a massive tonic for the Soviet Union's lacklustre economy, a U.S. research organisation reported Saturday.

The private New York-based Council on Economic Priorities (CEP) said the multi-billion dollar U.S. Strategic Defence Initiative (SDI), as "Star Wars" is officially known, could propel the Soviet economy into the 21st Century as Moscow sought to keep up with Washington in a space defence race.

"Although it is difficult to determine the precise impact of such a system on the Soviet economy, it may have a disconcertingly positive effect," wrote CEP Director

Alice Marlin in a commentary on a special study of Soviet anti-missile technology.

The study, by Harvard University Soviet Economics Specialist Eric Stubbs, said the Soviet Union was at present 10 years behind the United States in computer, sensing and tracking technologies needed for viable defence against nuclear missiles.

But the report said that Moscow's pursuit of strategic defence "could well provide a powerful incentive to reform the Soviet economic

infrastructure."

"The result could be a more modern, vigorous and technically capable USSR in the 21st Century," it added.

Stubbs wrote: "It is worth considering that U.S. efforts to force the Soviet Union into an accelerated Star Wars race that the USSR is presently less equipped to fight may, in the long run, backfire."

"Pressing the Soviet Union toward this policy change may not be in the best long-term interests of the United States."

On a separate issue the Washington Post said Saturday the United States and the Soviet Union may meet as early as next month to plan talks aimed at curbing the spread of chemical weapons.

ponents.

Quoting unidentified administration officials, the paper said a U.S. task force plans to ask Moscow to set a date for talks on reducing the production of chemical weapons.

Both countries agreed to "initiate a dialogue on preventing the proliferation of chemical weapons" after the Geneva summit between President Reagan and Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev on Nov. 21.

Kenneth Adelman, who heads the U.S. task force on chemical weapons, told the Post that more than 15 nations are believed to have chemical weapons and urgent action is needed to stop breaches of the ban on the use of poison gas.

TASS assails Reagan's remarks on C. America

MOSCOW (R) — The Soviet News Agency TASS has attacked President Ronald Reagan for alleging that Moscow was involved in "malevolent activities" in Central America and said the reverse was true.

The state agency said Mr. Reagan's remarks, made to the news agency Noticias De Mexico, and those by other State Department officials, were "a specimen of political hypocrisy and slander."

"The situation in Central America, just as in other 'hot spots' on the planet, is rooted in U.S. policy which is aimed at implanting and preserving the order it likes and ... interfering in affairs of sovereign states," TASS said.

In the interview, given some time ago but released only Thursday Mr. Reagan accused the

Soviet Union of "subversion and support for terrorism" in the region.

The release of the interview came a day after an unprecedented exchange of televised New Year's messages by Mr. Reagan and Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev to each other's peoples.

Mr. Reagan, who met President Miguel de la Madrid Friday after arriving for a visit to Mexico, told the Mexican agency that the governments of Soviet allies such as Cuba and Nicaragua were becoming increasingly linked with narcotics trafficking.

In a separate dispatch, TASS said the root of American drug problems lay in rackets set up by big business and with the connivance of U.S. police.

Colombia urges clearing of area around volcano

BOGOTA (R) — Colombian authorities Saturday urged the immediate evacuation of low-lying areas around the Nevado Del Ruiz Volcano, fearing flooding and mudslides due to renewed volcanic activity.

Presidential Secretary-General Victor Ricardo said in a statement that people living along five rivers on both sides of the volcano, which erupted on Nov. 13 killing 23,000 people, should abandon their houses and flee to higher ground.

Mr. Ricardo emphasised that the measure was precautionary and pleaded for an orderly evacuation of the towns of Mariquita,

Honda, Guayabal, Ambalema and Chinchina and the valleys of the rivers Azufrado, Lagunilla, Guali, Reio and Chinchina.

Scientists monitoring the volcano reported increased seismic activity, with ash spewing from it. They feared there could be avalanches, triggered by a thaw of the snow cap covering the 5,400-metre volcano.

The volcano has been rumbling since the November disaster, which buried the town of Armero under an avalanche of mud and rocks but it is the first time the government has urged an evacuation.

Several Indian opposition groups form alliance

NEW DELHI (R) — Several Indian opposition leaders formed a new alliance Saturday aimed at taking joint action on major political issues, the Press Trust of India (PTI) reported.

The news agency said officials of 13 regional and opposition political parties met in the southern city of Hyderabad and decided to set up a common forum "to preserve the country's unity and integrity."

The meeting was called by film-star politician N.T. Rama Rao, whose regional Telugu Desam Party has ruled Andhra Pradesh state for three years.

PTI said those attending included Surjit Singh Barnala, who heads the moderate Sikh Akali Dal government in Punjab state, and leaders of another regional group, the Assam People's Front, which won power in Assam state last month.

Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi, whose Congress (I) Party has lost state elections in both Punjab and Assam in the past three months, launched a savage attack on opposition groups last week.

"Their ideological roots are shallow, their political outlook circumscribed by region, caste and religion. Wherever they have come to power, they have retarded progress," he said.

PTI said the opposition groups described Mr. Gandhi's outburst

as "intemperate and irresponsible." "Patriotism is not the monopoly of any particular party," they said in a statement.

"This meeting feels that dubbing the democratic aspirations of the people of several states as anti-national is itself a gross anti-national act which in no way serves the cause of national unity," the statement added.

Regional groups like the Akali Dal and the Assam People's Front have emerged as a major force in the Lok Sabha, parliament's Lower House, holding 65 of the 544 seats. Opposition groups also rule nine of India's 22 states.

Meanwhile in Punjab a schoolteacher was shot dead in a village Saturday by suspected Sikh extremists gunmen, the Press Trust of India (PTI) reported.

Armed police surrounded the village of Khalowal in Gurdaspur district bordering Pakistan and launched a manhunt for the gunman, who escaped on a motorcycle, the news agency quoted police as saying.

The attack was the fourth in as many days blamed on extremists fighting for a separate Sikh nation called Khalistan in Punjab. Sikh extremists have killed about 50 people and wounded more than 100 in the past three months in the troubled north Indian state.

Bombs, gunfire rock Sri Lankan town

COLOMBO (R) — Bomb explosions and gunfire rocked Jaffna in northern Sri Lanka Saturday and landmines prevented members of a ceasefire monitoring committee reaching the city.

Defence Ministry sources said the committee members were stranded at the Palaly Airport because Tamil separatist guerrillas had planted landmines on the road to Jaffna, capital of northern province.

Several people were wounded in battles between guerrillas and troops sent to remove the landmines, they said.

Gunfire and bomb blasts were heard in Jaffna during the clashes in which residents said at least three people were killed and 14 wounded.

The committee appointed by the government to monitor last June's ceasefire agreement between Tamil guerrillas and government troops was trying to reach Jaffna to probe accusations of ceasefire violations by both sides.

Bombs set off by guerrillas disrupted the work of the 11-member committee when it last visited Jaffna in November.

Despite the ceasefire pact, clashes are reported almost daily in northern and eastern provinces, strongholds of guerrillas fighting to set up a separate state.

U.S. jail inmates free last 7 hostages

MOONSVILLE, West Virginia (AP) — Rioting inmates freed their last seven hostages and relinquished control of the West Virginia penitentiary after killing three prisoners in a siege that started as a protest of bad conditions and ended in a destructive rampage.

Gov. Arch Moore said the three dead inmates were apparently considered "snitches" (collaborators) and had been killed following mock trials held by inmates acting as "judge, jury and executioner."

"We've got three dead inmates and the rest of them we found alive," state police superintendent W.F. Donohoe said late Friday after all areas of the prison had been inspected.

"Three of them were hidden, well-hidden because they feared execution," he said. "We found one of them on top of the security cells, one in between two block walls and one on top of an oven."

Sixteen hostages were taken when knife-wielding inmates took

over the penitentiary on New Year's Day. The prisoners agreed Thursday to free their captives in stages in return for a meeting with Moore to discuss grievances in the dilapidated, 120-year-old prison.

Officials said one of the hostages had been seriously injured.

After the agreement was reached, prisoners swarmed through the main building Thursday night, raided the hospital drug dispensary and went on a rampage, officials said. Some areas of the prison were heavily damaged.

The prisoners were placed under a lockdown after the siege. "I think a group in the institution sat both as judge, jury and executioner of their own justice," the governor said. A prison "snitch system" in which inmates were encouraged to inform on each other could have contributed to the violence, he added.

The agreement signed Thursday by state officials said there would be "no reprisals" against inmates for participating in the two days of rioting. But Moore

S. African death toll reaches 27

JOHANNESBURG (R) — Police said Saturday they shot dead a man in the troubled Moutse area, where villagers are banding against incorporation into a tribal homeland set up for blacks under apartheid.

Police said the black man died Friday night when they fired birdshot and teargas to break up an illegal gathering, arresting 16 people, after a petrol bomb was thrown at one of their vehicles.

The death brought the official toll in the New Year to 27, but Moutse residents have reported at least 11 other unconfirmed deaths in the violence in their remote rural area of scattered villages, north east of Pretoria.

In Fort Elizabeth, police handed a memorial service set for Saturday for leading anti-apartheid activist Molly Blackburn.

Thousands of black people had been expected to pay tribute to Blackburn, one of the white activists most respected by blacks. Police said the service might have been a danger to public safety.

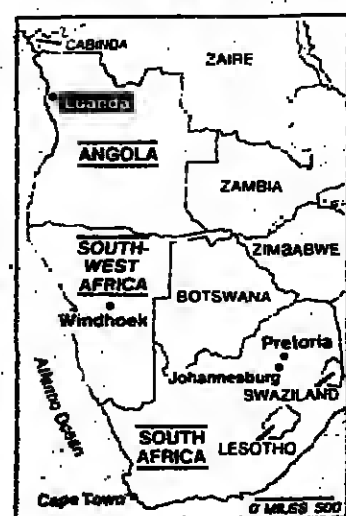
The campaigner's close friend Di Bishop, who was badly injured and lost her husband in the car crash which killed Blackburn, told reporters Friday night that the ban on the memorial service was gross interference by the state.

Bishop described Blackburn's funeral on Thursday, attended by some 15,000 black people, many of them radical youths, as "a very significant non-racial event which proved black and white South Africans can live and work and mourn together."

"The only reason I can think of for the ban is that they find this kind of occasion a threat to the survival of apartheid," she said.

Police reported five more deaths Friday, including one in fighting around Moutse in the Transvaal, where residents say they are battling vigilantes from Kwa-Ndebele tribal homeland.

On Friday night the South African authorities issued statements



rejecting criticism over Moutse, whose villagers have vowed to resist its incorporation into Kwa-Ndebele, one of 10 homelands set up under apartheid for the black majority.

Kwa-Ndebele is due to accept nominal independence, a status not recognised internationally and which Moutse people say they fear would deprive them of South African citizenship.

Pretoria, which says it will seek to restore citizenship to those who lost it when other homelands took "independence," said it had offered to resettle Moutse people and "considered the matter with the greatest understanding and compassion."

Moutse residents say they do not want to move and that the land they were offered is much poorer than their relatively prosperous district.

Police, replying to residents' claims that the authorities had done little to stop the alleged vigilante attacks, said: "We reject the connotation that the police have an indifferent attitude ... police are striving to contain the unrest and lawlessness in the area."

Meanwhile South Africa says its security forces killed nearly 600 nationalist guerrillas in Namibia in

Blast kills four near Afghan border

PESHAWAR, Pakistan (R) — Four men were killed and 14 injured by a bomb which exploded Friday in a market in the troubled Khyber Pass tribal area which borders Afghanistan, official sources said Saturday.

They said the bomb, which blasted a cobbler's shop in Landikotal bazaar, could have been planted by an agent of the Afghan secret police Khud.

Pakistani troops launched a crackdown in the Khyber Pass region last month against dissident tribesmen getting free arms from Afghanistan's government.

Police in Peshawar, capital of North-West Frontier province, said they found a time-bomb in a cinema house there Friday and arrested an Afghan suspected of planting it.

Pakistani officials say Khud has sent agents on sabotage missions inside Pakistan, which backs rebels fighting the Kabul government.

Marcos: Lack of replacement is delaying Ver's departure

WASHINGTON (AP) — Philippine President Ferdinand Marcos said in a televised interview Friday that he is hampered in retiring controversial Chief of Staff Fabian C. Ver because he has no one to replace him.

Mr. Marcos said he is consulting with the board of generals on a possible replacement, but at the moment sees no one else who could fill the job.

Mr. Marcos told the public broadcasting system Maceel-Lehrer Newshour that he regards both Gen. Ver and Gen. Fidel V. Ramos, who filled Gen. Ver's post while Gen. Ver was on trial in the slaying of opposition leader Benigno Aquino, as having submitted their resignations.

Mr. Marcos reinstated Gen. Ver last month after his acquittal in the Aquino case. Gen. Ver submitted his resignation on being named chief of staff.

"He said, 'I am at the disposal of the commander in chief,'" Mr. Marcos said, adding that Gen. Ramos, who is being investigated in connection with charges of administrative negligence, has publicly stated his readiness to retire if necessary.

It is still possible that Gen. Ver will step down before the Feb. 7 elections, said Mr. Marcos, but added, "I am not sure about it because of various factors that have gone into it."

Countdown begins again for U.S. shuttle Columbia

CAPE CANAVERAL, Florida (AP) — The countdown began Saturday for another try at launching space shuttle Columbia and a crew of seven on a flight that was aborted two weeks ago just 14 seconds before liftoff.

Columbia, the flagship of the nation's shuttle fleet, is scheduled to blast off at 7:05 a.m. (1205 GMT) Monday to start its first mission in more than two years.

The craft recently completed an 18-month overhaul for installation of sophisticated gear already aboard its three sister ships.

The crew flew here Friday from the astronaut training base in Houston. It includes U.S. Representative Bill Nelson, a Democrat whose district includes Cape Canaveral and the Kennedy Space Center.

"We're looking forward now to being the first flight of 1986 instead of the last flight of 1985, and we're ready to go," Mission Commander Robert Gibson told reporters.

Mr. Nelson, chairman of the U.S. House Subcommittee on Space Science and Applications, is the second congressional observer named to a shuttle flight. Senator Jake Garn, a Utah Republican, chairman of a subcommittee that oversees funding for the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA), flew last April.

The other crew members are

1985 and denies guerrilla claims to have opened up a military corridor into the South African-held territory.

In a statement Friday night, the South African-led South West African Territory Force said 599 South West African People's Organisation (SWAPO) guerrillas had been shot dead last year, compared with 566 in 1984.

A spokesman dismissed as propaganda SWAPO's claim to have opened up a military corridor in northern Namibia that would allow it to strike deep inside the vast, mainly desert country.

SWAPO is waging a 20-year-old bush war against South African rule of Namibia, which Pretoria controls in defiance of the United Nations.

State-run South African television, backing up previous reports from Masera, said Friday night that South Africa was turning away most Lesotho nationals at the border.

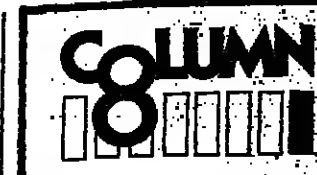
Television News said that only migrant mineworkers and emergency workers from Lesotho were being allowed across, and showed film of long queues building up at the border as South African officials stepped up checks on permits and passports.

The report said the South African authorities had given no reason for the clampdown and no comment was immediately available from the South African Foreign Affairs Department.

In Maseru Friday, Lesotho government officials said the partial ban apparently started on New Year's Day.

Lesotho Information Minister Desmond Sisishe told Reuters he thought South Africa was retaliating against Lesotho's petition to the United Nations Security Council this week over the killing on Dec. 20 of nine people in Maseru.

Pretoria has rejected Lesotho's claim that it was responsible for the deaths. The Security Council unanimously condemned South Africa for the killings.



Kuwaiti family 'books seats' for space voyage

KUWAIT (AP) — A Kuwaiti family has paid \$156,000 for three seats on the first commercial voyage into outer space scheduled for Oct. 12, 1992, the Kuwait News Agency (KUNA) reported Saturday. The agency said the family refused to be named and the three members involved were not identified. According to the agency report, the 8-12 hour trip in space was sponsored by a company called Expeditionary Society to mark the 500th anniversary of Christopher Columbus' discovery of "the new world." It said that the U.S. company American Pacific is building the special spaceship which will be able to accommodate 20 passengers. The only "conditions" for would-be passengers was "good health and enough money," the agency added.

Tiger attacks model during photo shoot

TORONTO (R) — An 360 kg. gramma Siberian tiger attacked a swimsuit-clad model at an outdoor photo session, but the cat's trainer managed to wrestle it off the terrified woman and she scrambled to safety. Twenty-year-old Christa Daniel, wearing only a bathing suit in icy temperatures, was to be photographed with a tiger at a Toronto park in a publicity shot for upcoming local exhibits. After she had nervously positioned herself behind the tiger, Taz suddenly turned and lunged at her. Trainer Jim Dillman jumped between them and successfully forced the animal off. The episode was over in seconds, and no one was hurt. Dillman said the tiger's lunge was probably a playful gesture. Ms. Daniel, who was scheduled to appear at an international motorcycle show in Toronto, refused her composure quickly but, overed to continue the photo session. "I'm fine," she said later. "But I was incredibly startled."

12 whales die on Chinese beach

PEKING (AP) — A group of 12 sperm whales swam ashore and died on a beach in south-east China's Fujian province late last month in China's first reported case of group suicide by whales, the China Daily reported Saturday. The official English-language daily said the largest whale was 16 metres long and weighed 20 tons.

Churchill's nephew given bail on drug charges

LONDON (R) — Sir Winston Churchill's aristocratic great-nephew, who spent Christmas in jail on cocaine charges, was given bail by a high court judge on condition that he went to stay in a drug rehabilitation centre. The 30-year-old Marquess of Blandford, heir to a £40-million (\$56-million) fortune as son of the Duke of Marlborough, was ordered to appear in court again on Jan. 20. His release from London's grim Wormwood Scrubs Prison was dependent on relatives providing £10,000 (\$14,000) in sureties. The marquis, who stands to inherit Blenheim Palace where Churchill was born, was accused with four co-defendants last month of plotting to supply drugs after police seized cocaine worth £50,000 (\$72,000). One newly-released prisoner told London's Mirror newspaper that the marquis had undergone a "cultural shock" coping with life in a cell. "There were times when he looked close to despair," the ex-prisoner was quoted as saying.

New Year's cake claims 3 lives

TOKYO (AP) — The 1986 death toll from choking on New Year's rice cakes had reached three in Tokyo as of Saturday, a Tokyo Fire Department official said. Ryoji Takahashi said another eight people had been rushed to hospitals after Mochi, glutinous rice cakes consumed in various forms at this season, got stuck in their throats. Four of the victims were in critical or serious condition, he said. The Asahi Shimbun, compiling statistics from Tokyo and the adjacent prefectures of Kanagawa and Chiba, reported that in the first three days of the year, 14 people choked to death on the heavy white cakes, usually boiled in soups or grilled in the oven and wrapped in seaweed.

GOREN BRIDGE

BY CHARLES GOREN AND OMAR SHARIF
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TREASURE YOUR ENTRIES

Both vulnerable. South deals.

NORTH
♦ 62
♦ 52
♦ 16753
♦ K1982

WEST
♦ 94
♦ J10973
♦ K662
♦ 43

EAST
♦ K1685
♦ K864
♦ Q9
♦ A65

SOUTH
♦ A9173
♦ A9
♦ A34
♦ Q167

The bidding:
South West North East
2 NT Pass 3 NT Pass
Opening lead: Jack of ♣.

If you like the idea of mastering one facet of bridge at a time, you can't do much better than collecting the excellent series of workbooks first designed by French internationalist Roger Trezel and subsequently updated and translated by one of the world's great players/writers, Terence Reese. (Those Extra Chances in Bridge, by Terence Reese and Roger Trezel, 66 pp., paperback. Available from The Bridge World, 39 West 94th St., New York, N.Y. 10025, at \$5.95 including postage. If you have a mild quail about the price of the new volume, it certainly delivers full value.

"On some hands were the declarer needs entries to dummy, he may be able to exploit the fact that the declarer cannot afford to release their controls. The point of that remark is demonstrated by this deal ...

"Counting his tricks, South noted that, even if he were able to establish end run the clubs, he would need at least two tricks from spades. If the defenders were able to shut out the club suit by holding up the ace, then declarer would have to rely on his second strain and make four tricks in spades, together with two clubs, two hearts and one diamond.

"As he might need two entries to dummy for spade finesses, South began by overtaking the two of clubs with the jack. When East held up the ace, South took advantage of the entry to dummy by finessing the queen of spades. This was good play because, as we have seen, two spade tricks would be needed in any event.

"When the queen of spades held, South led the queen of clubs, overtaking with the king. East, once again, could not afford to part with the ace. South then finessed the jack of spades and continued with ace and another. This gave him four tricks in spades. By clever management of entries he made his game contract."

The book is replete with such nuggets—pure gold!